CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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LS DEBATES ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

Biggest anti-national act is 'vote chori': Rahul Gandhi

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi accused BJP of "vote chori," alleging Election Commission capture and unprecedented immunity for the commissioner

NEW DELHI

On Tuesday, December 9, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi strongly criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), calling "vote chori" (vote theft) the "biggest anti-national act" and alleging that the party had effectively captured the Election Commission (EC). Gandhi questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah amended the law to grant what he described as a "gift of immunity" to the election commissioner, a move unprecedented in India's history.

During a debate on electoral reforms, he asserted that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) sought to control every institution in the country, including the EC, which triggered protests from the treasury benches. Gandhi further stated that vote theft by the BJP was eroding the nation's democratic fabric and undermining the principles of modern India.

He challenged the government on its law changes regarding CCTV and election data, arguing that the EC's directive to destroy recordings after 45 days was less about protecting data and more about facilitating election manipulation. Gandhi cited irregularities in the 2024 Haryana assembly elections, including a Brazilian model's photo appearing multiple times in the electoral rolls, as evidence of alleged fraud. He also pointed out that the EC had not responded to queries regarding the Haryana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka elections, questioning its impartiality and transparency in managing the electoral process.

- Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the implementation of SIR in India is not new, while it has occurred before, it has not been practiced in recent decades. He emphasized that equality is the core principle of SIR.
- Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Dubey claimed Congress has historically compromised ethics for Muslim votes, a practice he says dates back to Nehru's era.
- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adjourned, will resume at 11 a.m. today (December 10, 2025.)

EC is implementing NRC, not SIR: Congress MP Jothimani

Congress MP from Tamil Nadu S. Jothimani, speaking on electoral reforms in Lok Sabha says the government is implementing NRC and not SIR. "The government wants to disenfranchise hundreds of voters through this exercise," Ms. Jothimani says.

RS continues discussion on Vande Mataram

NEW DELHI: The division of 'Vande Mataram' song for "politics of appeasement" led to the partition of India, Home Minister Amit Shah said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, as he slammed the Opposition for linking the debate on 150 years of the national song with the upcoming West Bengal elections. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge countered accusing BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, of insulting Jawaharlal Nehru, as he said the decision to use only the first two stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' as the national song was collectively taken by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. As the ruling BJP accused the Congress of 'dividing' the song written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Kharge said that Congress leaders have always been chanting 'Vande Mataram'.

BJP leaders, farmers detained during march to Suvarna Soudha

BELAGAVI

On Tuesday, several protesters, including Karnataka BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra, were detained by police while marching with a large group of farmers toward the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The protest aimed to highlight the Congress government's alleged "anti-farmer policies."

The march was led by Vijayendra, along with Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashoka, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, and several MLAs, MLCs, and senior party leaders. The demonstration began at Malini City Grounds and proceeded toward the legislature amid a heavy police presence. Protesters raised slogans accusing the government of ignoring farmers' problems and failing to address key agricultural issues.

Vijayendra criticized internal conflicts within the ruling Congress, claiming policy paralysis has left farmers' concerns unattended. He accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of prioritizing political ambitions over governance, with the Cabinet often in Delhi rather than addressing local agricultural crises. Vijayendra highlighted failures in supporting sugarcane and maize farmers, noting inadequate compensation, delays in opening procurement centers, and forcing farmers to sell produce at distress prices.

Cong leaders slam BJP over farmer protests

BJP should protest against Central govt: DCM

Belagavi

Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar slammed BJP, saying it should protest against the Modi government instead of Karnataka. "Centre has denied funds for Mahadayi, Mekedatu, Upper Bhadra and Krishna projects, besides hurting farmers on sugarcane and maize," he said, adding BJP leaders have "no shame."

HK Patil calls BJP protests as 'unreasonable'

Belagavi

Minister HK Patil criticised the BJP's farmer protest, saying the central government caused issues by fixing MRP, FRP, and sugar rates. Speaking in Belagavi, he called the protest "immoral and unreasonable" and affirmed that the state government, led by the CM, fully supports farmers and will seek justice.

I am the real Oppn leader: Yatnal

Belagavi: BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Tuesday insisted he is "the genuine Opposition leader" in the Assembly. The strong statement came after his protest over being moved from his usual seat — a change he said was unfair to senior legislators. During the session, Congress MLA Ranganath accused BJP of treating Yatnal like an orphan and pledged party solidarity. In response, the Assembly Speaker explained that seat assignments depend on party strength in government — "when in power you're senior, when out you're junior" — a system affected Yatnal's seating. Yatnal rejected this, declaring he is not a political opportunist. He emphasized he didn't go to the Chief Minister's residence seeking favour, and challenged that if anyone is truly the Opposition leader, it's him — not R. Ashoka.

CM unveils world's second largest Khadi national flag

"The tricolor flag is not just a khadi fabric; it is a symbol of India's pride and self-respect."
—Siddaramaiah, CM

"Giant tricolor flag at Suvarna Soudha serves to send a message of patriotism to the next generation."
—Shivakumar, DCM

BELAGAVI

On December 9, 2025, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled the world's second-largest Khadi national flag at the steps of Suvarna Soudha, Belagavi. The event witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries including Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, Assembly Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani, Legislative Council Chief Whip Salim Ahmed, Assembly Chief Whip Ashok Pattana, and Chief Secretary Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, along with several MLAs and senior officials. The massive Khadi flag was crafted by Vinod Kumar Revappa Bammanna and his family from Kamalapur, Kalaburagi district.

DGCA cuts IndiGo's flight schedule by 10 per cent

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday ordered a 10 per cent reduction in IndiGo's flight schedule, responding to the large-scale disruptions that have affected the airline's operations since December 1, 2025.

According to the aviation safety regulator, the curtailed schedule will apply across multiple sectors, with the most significant trims on high-demand, high-frequency routes. The DGCA has directed IndiGo to submit a revised operational schedule by 5 pm today (December 10).

"No airline, regardless of its size, will be allowed to cause inconvenience to passengers due to poor planning or failure to follow regulations"
—Ram Mohan Naidu, Civil Aviation Minister

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers, in a video message on Tuesday, expressed deep regret for the inconvenience caused to passengers and assured that the airline's operations have been "normalised." Earlier in the day, IndiGo had cancelled 423 flights nationwide, including 121 from Bengaluru and 152 from Delhi.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu warned that no airline can inconvenience passengers through poor planning or regulatory violations, assuring strict action against IndiGo for nationwide disruptions and crew-rostering failures.

Microsoft announces $17.5 bn investment in India

NEW DELHI

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on Tuesday announced that the company will invest ₹1,57,235 crore ($17.5 billion) in India — its largest-ever investment in Asia — to strengthen the infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI-driven future. Nadella, who is on a four-day visit to the country, shared on X that he had an inspiring conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about India's AI potential, and affirmed Microsoft's commitment to supporting the nation's ambitions. Responding to Nadella's post, PM Modi said the world is optimistic about India's role in artificial intelligence and expressed happiness that Microsoft has chosen India for its biggest Asian investment. He added that India's youth will use this opportunity to innovate and advance AI for a better planet. Microsoft said the $17.5 billion investment will be made over four years, from 2026 to 2029, and follows an earlier $3 billion pledge made in January 2025.

LOC issued against two more owners of Goa nightclub

PANAJI

Goa Police have issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against two more owners of the fire-hit nightclub—Ajay Gupta and Surinder Kumar Khosla—following Saturday's tragedy that claimed 25 lives. The action came just hours after the club's other owners, Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, fled to Thailand. At a press briefing in Anjuna, Deputy Inspector General of Police Varsha Sharma confirmed that Gupta and Khosla, the latter being a British national, are now under the LOC. She added that police are coordinating with Interpol to bring back the Luthra brothers, who reportedly left for Phuket soon after the incident.

Sharma said efforts to trace the Luthras began immediately after the fire, though they were not in Goa at the time. She also stated that two Goa government officials—the former Director of Panchayat, Siddhi Halarnkar, and former Goa State Pollution Control Board Member Secretary, Shamila Monteiro—have been called to join the probe.

'ILLEGAL' BEACH SHACK OWNED BY LUTHRA BROTHERS DEMOLISHED

Panaji

The Goa Tourism Department on Tuesday demolished 'Romeo Lane', an illegally constructed beach shack at Vagator, owned by brothers Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra, who also own the club Birch by Romeo Lane. After the fire tragedy, the authorities had sealed the beach shack at Vagator and another property of the Luthras at Assagao.

SUPREME COURT BACKS BLOS

SC warns EC to protect BLOs, flags threats could lead to 'anarchy'

NEW DELHI

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court expressed serious concern over threats faced by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and other officials engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR 2.0) of electoral rolls in West Bengal and other states. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi warned the Election Commission (EC) that failing to address these threats could lead to "anarchy."

The court highlighted reports of BLOs being overburdened, exhausted, and in some cases driven to extreme distress. Justice Bagchi noted that petitioners had alleged that state election commission offices were being gheraoed and that officials faced harassment and intimidation during the SIR process. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, informed the bench that state governments are constitutionally obliged to provide protection and cooperation, and if they fail, the EC could deploy local police under deputation or, if necessary, central forces. Justice Bagchi clarified that the EC cannot assume control over the police until the official election process begins.

Petitioners, represented by senior advocate V Giri, sought directions for state police deployment under EC supervision and requested central armed forces be deployed until the SIR process is completed, citing a spate of violence against BLOs in West Bengal. However, the bench pointed out that apart from a single First Information Report (FIR), there was limited verified evidence of obstruction, and much of the material relied upon was based on historical incidents or media reports.

The Supreme Court urged the EC to bring to its notice any specific instances of lack of cooperation or threats to BLOs so that appropriate action could be taken, emphasizing the need to ensure that the SIR process proceeds smoothly without disruptions.

INSIGHTS TO NOTE

- Court cannot treat West Bengal situation as uniquely requiring intervention.
- BLOs face pressure due to house visits and enumeration duties.
- EC has written to states seeking protection for BLOs.
- Bench issued notice, seeking responses on threats across states.

QUICK READ

Seven-storey building catches fire in Jakarta, 20 killed

JAKARTA: A fire at a seven-story office building in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, has claimed 20 lives, officials confirmed on Tuesday. The blaze, which erupted around midday on the first floor, quickly spread to upper levels while some employees were having lunch, and others had already left, said Susatyo Purnomo Condro, head of Central Jakarta police. The building houses Terra Drone Indonesia, a provider of aerial survey drones for sectors ranging from mining to agriculture and part of Japan's Terra Drone Corporation. *More on page 8*

Karnataka HC recalls stay on menstrual leave policy

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday withdrew its earlier interim order that had stayed the state government's granting one day of menstrual leave per month to women aged 18 to 52. Justice Jyoti M initially issued the stay after hearing petitions from the Bangalore Hotels' Association However, around 1.30 pm, the judge recalled the decision following a request from Advocate General K. Shashikiran Shetty, who sought time to present the state's arguments before any stay.

QUICK READ

Garbage spilled on road, GBA imposes Rs 10,000 fine on truck

BENGALURU

A GBA garbage truck has been fined Rs 10,000 for leaking garbage on the road. The fine has been imposed by the officials of the Bangalore North Municipal Corporation. The garbage truck was leaking garbage onto the road during garbage disposal. This was causing a foul smell to the road, which was annoying to motorists and the general public.

Rs 400 crore for development of IT corridor: DCM

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the state government has allocated Rs 400 crore for the development of the IT corridor. This has given good news to the IT sector. Sharing a post on X regarding this, he said that the government has allocated Rs 400 crore for the development of the IT corridor. The comprehensive development of Bengaluru is priority. He said that the IT Corridor Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to KR Puram will be developed at a world-class level at a cost of Rs 400 crore.

Geyser gas leak in bathroom, mother and child die

BENGALURU

A mother and her child, who fell ill due to a geyser gas leak in the bathroom, died. The incident took place in Panchsheel Nagar under Govindaraja Nagar limits. It is reported that the mother Chandini (26) and child Yuvi (4) died in the hospital without responding to treatment. The mother and child fell ill after consuming gas that leaked from a geyser while they were taking a bath on Monday afternoon. The mother and child, who were critical, were admitted to Victoria Hospital by their neighbors.

Lokayukta officials raid Ambedkar Devpt Corporation

Discrepancies and misappropriation of funds were noted during recent Lokayukta raids on officials Dr BR Ambedkar Development Corporation

BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials raided the Dr BR Ambedkar Development Corporation on Tuesday following various allegations, including irregularities in loan sanctioning.

Sources said that a raid was conducted at the corporation's office in Vasanthnagar, under the leadership of Lokayukta SP Shivaprakash and important documents are being examined.

Ambedkar Development Corporation used to provide loans of Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh to the backward classes on a subsidized basis. However, the corporation officials were accused of misappropriating more than Rs. 10 crore through various irregularities including creating fake documents and fake candidates to sanction loans. It is learnt that a team of 10 officers raided the premises in the early hours of today and is examining the documents.

Separate news, Lokayukta raids homes of 10 employees: Lokayukta officials who recently (November 25) raided 47 places belonging to 10 employees working in various government departments on charges of disproportionate assets, discovered properties worth crores of rupees.

A team of the State Lokayukta Police raided the homes, offices and residences of relatives of 10 officers on duty in Bengaluru City, Mysore, Mandya, Bidar, Haveri, Dharwad, Gadag, Kodagu and Shivamogga districts. During this, movable and immovable property worth about Rs 35.31 crore was found. A case has been registered in this regard at the local police stations and an investigation is underway, Lokayukta officials had said in a media release.

During the raid on the employees' homes, officials found plots, residential houses, agricultural land, crores of rupees in cash, crores of rupees in valuable gold jewellery, luxury vehicles, household appliances and other items.

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner inspects various locations

BENGALURU

Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar visited and inspected various locations within the city corporation limits and issued necessary instructions. At the Hebbal Skywalk area, near the Military Bus Stop, garbage was being dumped indiscriminately. The Commissioner instructed that marshals patrol the area from 4.30 AM onwards to prevent garbage disposal at the spot. Noticing the absence of litter bins in the area, he directed officials to coordinate with the nearby Aster Hospital and ensure that litter bins are installed promptly. Subsequently, the Commissioner inspected government land within the city corporation limits to identify a suitable location for constructing a shelter/compound for street dogs, as per the directions of the Supreme Court. He instructed the Executive Engineers present at the site to take the required actions. On this occasion, Joint Commissioners Mohammed Naem Momin and Pallavi, Assistant General Manager of Byatarayanapura Division, Executive Engineers of Yelahanka Division, the Chief Veterinary Officers of the Animal Husbandry Department, and other staff were present.

Site Allotment Delay by BDA Causes Loan Problems

BENGALURU

Due to decades of delay, the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has plunged the residents of the ambitious Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) project into a serious financial crisis. Due to the non-handover of the plots on time, the residents are facing a difficult situation due to their age to get loans from banks for house construction. Several residents have expressed their grievances to BDA Commissioner Major Manivannan via Twitter.

Thousands of plot owners, who were in their forties when the plots were allotted, were unable to build houses as the BDA took nearly nine years to complete the infrastructure development. Generally, nationalized banks refuse to provide loans to those above the age of 55 for housing construction. As a result, many senior plot owners are now unable to get loans. Many plot owners are now close to retirement age. They are already retired. Even though the interest rates on loans are low, getting bank loans is a big challenge for these senior citizens. Retirees are inevitably forced to take loans from NBFCs at high interest rates. Banks are not only citing age but also legal complications of the layout as reasons for denying loans. Major banks, including HDFC, have pointed out that the banks have listed Kempegowda Layout as a non-RERA compliant and incomplete layout. In addition, bank officials have also mentioned that land acquisition issues are still pending in the layout.

> BDA Commissioner Major Manivannan, who has acknowledged this serious problem, has instructed his team to discuss this with the banks and find a solution. There has also been a demand that the BDA should immediately abolish the penalty for plot owners who are unable to get loans.

The Greater Bengaluru Development Authority has now planned the Kempegowda Layout in 4040 acres, but despite the passage of decades, development work has been completed in only 2,800 acres. The land acquisition process for about 1,200 acres is still pending. After the Arkavati Layout, the NPKL also remains incomplete, which is a cause for concern for the site owners.

Indigo effect: Rates of five-star hotels in city increase by 40-60 percent

BENGALURU

Due to the disruption to Indigo flights, the rates of five-star hotels in Bengaluru have increased by 40 to 60 percent.

For the past one week, IndiGo flights have been cancelled and traffic has been disrupted across the country. It is also doubtful that IndiGo flights will return to normal for some time. Therefore, tourists waiting for alternative flights are staying in local hotels, and demand for star hotels has increased.

Almost all five-star hotels have increased their daily rates by 40 to 60 percent in the last four to five days. Hotels that used to charge Rs 10,000-15,000 per day have now increased their rates to Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000. Thus, the hike in rates has hit tourists hard.

Speaking on this, Bengaluru Hotel Owners' Association President PC Rao said, it is normal for prices to increase when demand increases. It increases during New Year and cricket match days. Now, due to the IndiGo flight problem, tourists are flocking to hotels. But this time, the tourist business has been hit hard. So, the demand may remain the same until this problem is resolved. There will be only a small change in room rents.

Cong wrests Town Cooperative Bank after 10 years from BJP

BENGALURU

The Congress party has wrested the power in Hosakote Town Cooperative Bank after a decade. Elections were held on February 9. Results were with-held due to technical ditches of allowing ineligible voters to participate in the election process, and was challenged in court. The Court in its order on November 24 gave a final decision to announce the results setting aside the arguments of including voters who were ineligible to cast their votes due to not following the stipulated conditions as per bye-laws of the bank. The Returning Officer N Venkatesh announced the results on Tuesday at the bank premises.

Out of the 13, Congress has successfully bagged 8 and BJP got 5 seats. Winners from Congress included S Manjunath, K Kiran, Akbar Pasha, GU Vishnu, N Nagaraj, S Murali, HS Gopal, M Sarojamma. Winners from BJP were A Afsar, K Kiran Kumar, B Nagaraju, N Balachandran, B Venkatalakshmamma.

Former MP BN Bache Gowda, MLA Sharath Bachegowda, entrepreneur BV Byre Gowda, BMRDA President N Keshavamurthy, former President Vijayakumar, leaders BV Rajashekara Gowda, HM Subbaraju, have congratulated the winners from Congress.

Actor Dharma to undergo a voice test in 'Bangari' case

BENGALURU

Film actor Dharma is facing a voice test trouble in connection with the multi-crore fraud case in the name of Bamul president and former MP from Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency DK Suresh. It was alleged that Dharma had spoken to a gold trader by imitating DK Suresh's voice.

In addition to this, the audios were leaked. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials, who are preparing to examine the authenticity of these audios, are said to have decided to conduct a voice test of Dharma. The CID has requested the court to allow the collection of a voice sample from Dharma in connection with this test. If the court agrees, the actor will face a trial by fire, said top sources.

Actor and friend get a drill: Soon after the court gave the green signal for the investigation into the multi-crore fraud case, actor Dharma and his friend Aishwarya Gowda have been questioned by CID officials. The officials have been questioning both of them separately for four to five days and recording their statements. It is learnt that actor Dharma has denied any wrongdoing.

It was alleged that Aishwarya Gowda had cheated gold trader Vanitha Aital by accepting 14 kg of gold from her, claiming to be the sister of former MP Suresh. It was said that actor Dharma had spoken in the guise of Suresh in this act. A case of cheating was registered in this regard at Chandra Layout police station. Later, the state government ordered a CID investigation into this fraud. The accused had approached the court seeking a stay on the investigation against them. Finally, the court lifted the stay order and ordered a CID investigation. Following this, Dharma and Aishwarya Gowda have appeared for the CID investigation.

In the fraud case, it is alleged that Dharma had spoken to a gold trader Vanitha, claiming to be former MP Suresh. The audio released in this regard contains a male voice. Therefore, a test will be conducted to determine the similarity of the voice in the audio with Dharma's voice. If a match is found, it is said that strong technical evidence will be found in the case.

Prepare a Master Plan for Devpt of Kasturinagar: Rao

BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Maheshwar Rao has instructed officials to prepare a Master Plan for the comprehensive development of the Kasturinagar area.

During his inspection visit to Kasturinagar located within the limits of the Bengaluru Central and East City Corporations, he directed officials to prepare a detailed Master Plan covering overall infrastructure development, including roads, footpaths, and parks.

Reviewing the unhygienic conditions at the waste transfer unit and dry waste collection center located under the flyover, he expressed dissatisfaction and instructed officials to carry out immediate cleaning and ensure continuous maintenance of cleanliness.

Upon noticing construction debris, discarded sofas, and other waste dumped under the flyover, he ordered their immediate removal and instructed that the area be developed for public use.

Observing silt accumulation in the stormwater drain that connects to Benniganahalli Lake, resulting in blockage of water flow, he directed officials to immediately undertake desilting and restore smooth water flow. He also instructed that an RCC retaining wall be constructed along the storm water drain adjacent to the flyover service road.

To prevent illegal dumping of waste under the flyover, he directed BSWML to install CCTV cameras and strengthen monitoring. He also instructed officials to take strict action against those found dumping waste. A Safal Daily Fresh center currently stands on land belonging to the BDA, but is no longer in use. He instructed officials to write to BDA seeking transfer of this land to the City Corporation. He also directed that the adjoining private property be acquired through TDR. The Railway Department must complete the ongoing track-related and other civil works near Benniganahalli Lake within the stipulated timelines. He instructed them to ensure no damage occurs to the lake and to construct the culvert ensuring proper water flow. Other Key Directions Issued During the Inspection were, redesign Vivekananda Park and develop the junction to improve smooth vehicular movement, expedite completion of the Railway Department's underpass works, initiate development works for Benniganahalli Lake and clear encroachments, remove unauthorised structures on the footpath of Kasturinagar 1st Main Road, repurpose the dry waste collection center in Kasturinagar for use as the ward office.

ANGER AGAINST GOVERNMENT

80,000 BPL cards cancelled in city; people struggling

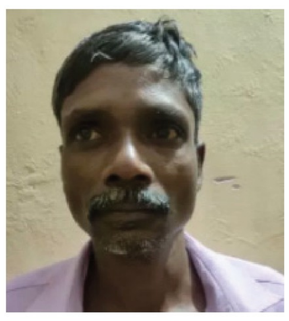
BENGALURU

80 thousand BPL cards are being revised in the city, changing from BPL to APL. Women are crying because the cards have been deleted. They are wandering to the food department every day because they are not getting rice. BPL cards are being revised in Bengaluru based on own house, tax payment, three acres of land as income source. The central government has deleted about 80 thousand cards across Bengaluru. For the last three to four months, 80 thousand cards have not been getting rice. Cardholders who were deleted due to not getting rice are visiting the Food Department in Rajajinagar. Hundreds of women holding BPL cards have expressed their frustration that the officials are not listening to them even after explaining that they do not pay taxes, do not have land, do not have their own house.

Residents from many areas including Vijayanagar, Sunkadakatte, Laggere, Kamakshi Palya, Agrahara Dasarahalli are coming forward to provide clarifications along with documents by holding up the cards. Only the officials are behaving irresponsibly. People have demanded that the government immediately intervene and return the deleted cards.

The Food Department is saying that they are shifting from BPL card to APL based on proper evidence, information and documents. However, people have vented their anger against the government.

QUICK READ



Man Arrested for Festival Gunfire Incident

Kodagu

Siddapur police in Kodagu district have arrested a man for firing a gun that accidentally injured pedestrians during the Huttari festival. The accused is Shashi (47), a labourer from Abhyatmangala village. The incident occurred around 7 pm when gunshots were heard from a nearby garden. Bullet fragments injured Satish and Mittu, who were taken to the district hospital for treatment. Police said the accused used another person's gun during the celebration. A case has been registered and investigation is ongoing.

Accused Acquitted, moves court for Defamation Suit

Puttur

Nitesh Kumar Rai has been acquitted in a case registered at Puttur Rural Sampya police station under Crime No. 3/2023. The charges under IPC Sections 354(D) and 506 were heard by the First Additional Senior Civil Judge Court, Puttur. The complaint was filed by Samiksha Rai. The court held that there was no sufficient evidence to support the allegations. The accused was acquitted on November 25, 2025, after prosecution failed to prove the case. The accused plans to file a defamation suit.

Woman Missing After Attending Koteshwar Kodi Festival

Kundapur

A 25-year-old woman named Reshma from Hodroli has been reported missing after attending the Koteshwar Kodi festival. She had come with her husband from Erangapur village in Tarikere taluk. According to the complaint, Reshma went to the jatre on December 6 and was last seen near Shastri Circle in Kundapur. She did not return thereafter. Police said she is 5.4 feet tall, of medium build, wheatish complexion, and speaks Kannada. A search operation is underway.

Foundation Stone Laid for Uchila Beach Road Widening Project

Improved road expected to ease travel and boost coastal development

ULLAL

The foundation stone laying ceremony for the widening of the road from Bhagavathi School to Uchila Beach was held on Tuesday with the presence of public representatives and local residents. The project is expected to improve traffic movement and provide better access to the popular Uchila Beach area.

Urban Development Authority Chairman Sadashiva Ullal, who spoke after laying the foundation stone, said that Karnataka Assembly Speaker U. T. Khader has allocated Rs 80 lakh for the road widening work. Out of the total amount, Rs 40 lakh has already been released for the initial phase of the project. He expressed confidence that the remaining funds would be provided in due course to ensure completion of the work.

Sadashiva Ullal stressed that cooperation from local residents, shop owners, and contractors would be very important during the construction period. He said road widening works often face challenges, but public support would help complete the project smoothly. Once completed, the widened road would benefit daily commuters, students, and tourists visiting the beach.

Someshwar Municipal Vice-President Ravishankar and municipal member U. Salam Uchila also addressed the gathering. They highlighted the long-standing demand of residents for a wider and safer road and thanked the authorities.

Municipal President Kamala, along with elected representatives, senior leaders, and local activists, attended the programme. Prominent among them were Mansoor Manchila, Saifulla Someshwar, Ismail Haji Koppala, Majeed Haji Uchila, Raghava R. Uchila, Deepak Pillar, nominated member Dilip Rego, Purushottam Gatti, Kishore Uchila, Harish Uchila, Kareem Nagadota, Chandra Uchila, U. A. Ibrahim, Naseer Khan, Ismail Talapady, Rafiq, and others. Officials said work would start soon and requested public patience and cooperation for timely completion and minimal inconvenience to all.

Kantavara Kannada Sangha Announces Four Endowment Awards

MOODUBIDIRE

Four prestigious awards honour contributions to culture, research, journalism, and teaching during the Sangha's Golden Jubilee celebrations later this month

Kantavara Kannada Sangha has announced four endowment awards for the year 2025 under the chairmanship of its president Dr. N. Mogasale. The announcement was made through a press release highlighting contributions to culture, research, journalism, and education.

The Karnataka Unification Leader K.B. Jinraj Hegde Memorial Cultural Award, instituted by the Saraswati Ballal and Dr. C.K. Ballal Couple Foundation, will be presented to Chennabasavanna of Lohia Prakashana, Ballari, in recognition of his service to Kannada publishing.

The Professor Researcher Award, created through an endowment by senior writer Dr. G.M. Hegde of Dharwad, will be conferred on senior scholar and retired professor Dr. R. Lakshmi Narayana of Bengaluru for his academic contributions and research work.

The Sangha has also announced its annual Best Journalist Award for journalist and writer Shri Lakshman Kodase, recognising his consistent work in Kannada journalism and writing. Another honour, the Best Teacher Saurabha Award, instituted through the endowment of national awardee late Balakrishna Achar and his wife, will be given to national teacher awardee Shaala Sarojini Nagappa Eshwarmangala for her dedication to teaching.

Each award includes a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a copper citation plaque, and a formal honour. The awards will be presented on December 28 during the second programme of the Sangha's Golden Jubilee celebrations, chaired by trustee Harikrishna Punaroora. General Secretary Sadananda Naravi said the awards highlight the Sangha's effort to promote excellence and strengthen Kannada language and culture. The Golden Jubilee celebrations aim to honour dedicated contributors and encourage youth to engage in literary, cultural, and educational activities statewide.

Groom Goes Missing Days Before Wedding Ceremony

MANGALURU

In an unexpected turn, a 32-year-old groom went missing just two days before his wedding, prompting police to trace him from Chennai. The missing man has been identified as Rakshan J K, a resident of Arakerebailu in Jeppu Market.

On December 6, Rakshan left home around 11:30 am in his mother's Celerio car to distribute wedding invitation cards to relatives and friends. However, he neither returned home nor visited any relatives, and his mobile phone remained unreachable, raising concern among family members.

Later that day, Rakshan called his mother, saying he would return within half an hour, but he did not. His mehendi ceremony was scheduled for Sunday evening. Around 10:30 pm on December 6, the car was found locked and unattended near the City Corporation building in Mangaluru.

Family members revealed that Rakshan had earlier expressed disinterest in the wedding, though preparations were underway. Reports indicate he boarded a train to Chennai on Saturday afternoon. On Monday, he answered a call confirming his presence in Chennai, and police tracked his location to the city.

Pandeshwar police have registered a case and are coordinating efforts to bring Rakshan back to Mangaluru. Authorities are urging the public to share any information that could assist in ensuring the groom's safe return before the scheduled wedding. Family members are anxiously awaiting his return, hoping the situation will be resolved quickly.

Upgraded facility aims to improve patient care and access

Renovated Homoeopathic OPD Reopens at Father Muller Campus

MANGALURU

Life coming full circle was reflected at Father Muller Kankanady Campus on Monday with the inauguration of the newly renovated homoeopathic OPD and pharmacy in its former college OPD location. The upgraded OPD is now located on the lower and mezzanine floors of the OPD building and is designed to be more accessible and patient friendly.

The renovated facility was blessed and inaugurated by Fr Faustine Lucas Lobo, Director of Father Muller Charitable Institutions. Speaking on the occasion, he referred to the biblical message of being the "salt of the earth" and reminded doctors and staff of their duty to bring healing, compassion, and positive values to society. He recalled that FMCI founder Fr Augustus Muller SJ treated leprosy patients through homoeopathy, laying the foundation for holistic care.

Fr Lobo said the modernised OPD should motivate homoeopathic doctors to serve patients with renewed dedication. He added that homoeopathy holds an important place alongside other medical systems within FMCI.

Dr Deepa Pais, Deputy Medical Superintendent, welcomed the gathering, while Dr Girish Navada, Medical Superintendent of FMHMCH, proposed the vote of thanks. Fr John Vas assisted with the prayer and blessing.

Several administrators, principals, and faculty members from Father Muller institutions were present. The earlier OPD was housed in the Utility Building. Expansion needs, better access for patients, and medical store growth led to its relocation and renovation.

Fr Nelson Dheeraj Pais announced a 30 per cent discount on homoeopathic medicines from December 15 to January 15, 2026. The renovated OPD reflects FMCI's continued commitment to compassionate, patient-centred healthcare services for the public.

Woman Duped of Rs 31 Lakh in Fraud

UDUPI

In a shocking scam, a woman lost over Rs 31 lakh after falling prey to a fraudulent "work from home" scheme. A case has been registered at CEN police station in Udupi.

The victim, Vijayalakshmi, saw a Facebook advertisement offering a part-time work-from-home job. Soon after, she received a WhatsApp message from a woman claiming to be an HR executive at "Shen SE Corporate Office." She was asked to fill out an application and complete small tasks. After completing the tasks, Vijayalakshmi initially received payments, which gave her confidence in the scheme.

On December 1, she received a link that redirected her to a Telegram account named "Guha Anusuya." The accused promised returns of 10 per cent on investments of Rs 1,000, Rs 3,000, or Rs 5,000, with claims of 30 to 40 per cent dividends. Vijayalakshmi invested Rs 1,000 on December 1 and Rs 2,000 the next day. Initially, a small return of Rs 3,900 was credited, strengthening her trust in the scheme.

Encouraged by the promise of higher profits, she transferred a total of Rs 31,00,067 in phases between December 1 and 4. Later, the accused failed to pay the promised returns or principal amount, revealing the scam.

Vijayalakshmi lodged a complaint at CEN police station, and authorities have begun investigating the incident. Police have warned the public to exercise caution regarding work-from-home offers and online investment schemes, as fraudulent networks often lure victims with small initial returns before defrauding large sums.

Five Arrested in Coffee Bag Theft Case

PUTTUR

Puttur town police have arrested five persons in connection with the theft of coffee bags worth Rs 21.44 lakh from a goods lorry. Police said the theft occurred while the vehicle was transporting coffee beans from Piriya to Mangaluru.

The arrested accused have been identified as Ashlesha Bhatt, Narayana Shettigar, Mithun Kumar, Vijay Shetty, and Mohammad Ashraf. All five have been taken into custody for further questioning. Police also recovered two auto rickshaws, one goods tempo used in the crime, and all 80 stolen gunny bags. Each bag contained 60 kilograms of coffee beans.

The case was registered based on a complaint filed by Tirthesh, aged 29, a resident of Kabaka in Puttur. He is the owner and driver of lorry bearing registration number KA 19 AB 2258.

According to the complaint, on December 3, Tirthesh loaded 320 gunny bags of coffee beans from a coffee curing company in Piriya and started his journey towards Mangaluru. During the night, he reached Puttur and parked the lorry on the roadside at Nehru Nagar in Kabaka. After locking the vehicle, he returned home.

On December 4, he resumed the journey and reached Mangaluru port by afternoon. During a routine quality check at the company, officials noticed that the rear seal of the lorry had been tampered with. On inspection, 80 gunny bags were found missing, causing a loss of Rs 21.44 lakh.

Following the complaint, Puttur town police registered a case under Crime No. 120/2025 under Section 303(2) Act.

STRAY DOGS

Council Plans Relocation of City Stray Dogs

MADIKERI

Keeping public health, safety, and animal welfare in mind, the Madikeri Municipal Council has begun steps to relocate stray dogs from public places to recognised shelter homes across the city. The move aims to reduce risks to residents while ensuring humane care for animals living on streets and near private properties.

The Council said the programme will be carried out in a planned and responsible manner, focusing on shifting dogs found in busy roads, markets, schools, and residential areas. The effort is expected to improve cleanliness, prevent dog bite incidents, and create safer public spaces for pedestrians, children, and senior citizens.

The Municipal Commissioner stressed that cooperation from voluntary organisations and animal welfare NGOs is crucial for the success of this initiative. NGOs have been requested to provide proper shelter, protection, regular food and water, medical care, and overall responsible management for the dogs shifted to shelter homes.

To support the programme, the Madikeri Municipal Council has assured technical guidance, legal support, and necessary permissions to participating organisations. The civic body will also coordinate with the health department to ensure smooth execution and compliance with existing animal welfare rules.

Registered and government-recognised NGOs committed to animal welfare have been invited to join hands with the Council. Interested organisations can contact the health department of the Municipal Corporation for further details. Officials said public cooperation will also play a key role in making the initiative effective, balanced, and compassionate for both citizens and animals during the implementation phase.

Souharda Christmas Utsav Celebrated

MANGALURU

St Mother Teresa Vichara Vedike, in collaboration with Catholic Sabha Mangalore Pradesh (R), will host the much-awaited Souharda Christmas Utsav 2025 on December 13 and 14 at Kadri Park from 2:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The two-day festival aims to promote peace, harmony, and the universal joy of Christmas, welcoming people from all communities to celebrate together.

The Utsav will feature a series of competitions to encourage talent and creativity among children, youth, and families. These include Christmas Khel games, Star-Making, Carol Singing, and Cake Baking & Decoration contests.

Food enthusiasts can enjoy Christmas cakes, Kuswar, traditional snacks, sweets, homemade treats, and a Wine Fest. A variety of food and ice cream stalls will offer a delightful fusion of festive flavours.

The celebration will also showcase musical and cultural performances by renowned artists and entertainment groups, offering a rich cultural experience. Organizers aim to use the festival as a platform to strengthen unity, social harmony, and mutual respect among communities, reflecting the timeless message of Christmas: love, peace, and goodwill.

Residents of Mangaluru and neighbouring areas are warmly invited to participate in this colourful and vibrant celebration. The festival promises joyful competitions, delicious food, cultural performances, and festive cheer for all attendees.

At a press conference, Roy Castelino, president of Mother Teresa Vichara Vedike; Sunil Kumar Bajal, secretary; Santosh D'Souza, president of Catholic Sabha Mangalore Pradesh (R); Stany Lobo, programme coordinator; Stanley Bantwal, Rehman Khan Kunjathbail, Samarth Bhatt, and Dolphy D'Souza, treasurer, were present to announce the event.

QUICK READ

Fans perform special pooja praying for DKS

Kolar

In Kolar, supporters of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar offered a special pooja at the Kolaramma Temple, praying for him to become the next Chief Minister. At the temple located in Kote area, dozens of followers gathered to perform rituals and seek blessings for Shivakumar's elevation. After completing the pooja, they held placards and chanted slogans in his support. Sujith Gowda, president of the DK Shivakumar Fans' Association, led the ceremony and expressed hope that CM Siddaramaiah would eventually hand over the post to Shivakumar. Devotees also performed traditional rituals, including breaking coconuts, as part of the offering. Supporters said they believed several public aspirations would be fulfilled if Shivakumar becomes Chief Minister.

JDS and Congress clash in Channarayapatna

Hassan

Tension erupted in Jogipura village of Channarayapatna taluk when leaders and workers of the JDS and Congress clashed over the inauguration of a newly constructed community hall. Shravanabelagola MLA C.N. Balakrishna had arrived for the ceremony, but Congress workers objected to the event and blocked his entry. The situation escalated as some Congress activists allegedly pulled and pushed the MLA while trying to prevent him from proceeding. According to local reports, Congress leaders argued that the building was not fully completed and demanded official documents confirming its readiness before allowing the inauguration. MLA Balakrishna attempted to calm them, but the confrontation intensified. Despite the resistance, the MLA went ahead with the inauguration. However, disruptions continued during his speech, with Congress workers repeatedly interrupting the event. As Balakrishna was leaving the venue, the protesters shouted slogans and even broke the nameplate stone in anger.

Prez to attend 1066th jayanti of Suttur Shivaratri Shivayogi

President Droupadi Murmu will visit Malavalli on December 17 to inaugurate the 1066th Jayanti celebrations of Suttur Shivaratri Shivayogi

MANDYA

The town of Malavalli in Mandya district is preparing for the grand 1066th Jayanti celebration of Suttur Shivaratri Shivayogi, which will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on December 17. Ahead of the event, senior officials including Mysuru South Zone IGP Boralingaiah and District Commissioner Dr. Kumar visited various sites to review ongoing arrangements such as the helipad, stage, and public facilities.

At the helipad site near Marehalli on the outskirts of the town, officials inspected the construction of the green room, removal of electric poles, ground levelling, and the route planned for the President's arrival. They also discussed the installation of essential amenities. The team then visited the travellers' bungalow and taluk hospital, instructing the medical staff to ensure round-the-clock availability and preparedness for emergency treatment. DC Dr. Sanjay and Taluk Health Officer Dr. Veerabhadrapppa were directed to make all necessary arrangements.

Since the Jayanti celebrations will run from December 17 to 22 and will be attended by the President, Chief Minister, and several state ministers, officials reviewed crowd-management plans, public vehicle parking, accommodation arrangements in lodges, choultries, and resorts, and the removal of flex banners to avoid traffic disruption. Police authorities were advised to maintain strict law and order and ensure adequate security deployment.

At the main event venue, authorities examined the stage layout, entry gate for dignitaries, parking zones, food distribution areas, and drinking water facilities, ensuring that all basic infrastructure is in place for the smooth conduct of the celebration.

₹150 cr for road devpt in Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajanagar

BELAGAVI

Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan informed the Legislative Council that a total of ₹150.08 crore has been released since 2023 for road development works in the urban areas of Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajanagar districts under various schemes, out of which ₹142.32 crore has already been utilised.

Replying to a question raised by BJP MLC K. Vivekananda, the minister said that about 3.3 km of roads within the limits of Hassan City Corporation were severely damaged due to heavy rainfall. An estimate of ₹3.30 crore has been prepared for their repair. The restoration work is being taken up using available funds under the 15th Finance Commission grant, the State Finance Commission (SFC) grant and allocations from the local urban body.

Similarly, in Chamarajanagar City Municipal Council limits, repair work on 13 km of roads is underway at a cost of ₹2.77 crore. These funds too are drawn from the 15th Finance Commission, SFC grants and local body resources.

In Mandya City Municipal Council limits, repair of 9 km of roads is being carried out using ₹50 lakh available under local body funds, the minister added.

Rahim Khan emphasised that the government is prioritising urban road infrastructure across these districts to ensure better connectivity, smoother traffic movement and improved civic amenities. He noted that despite financial constraints, the government has allocated funds in a phased manner to address damages caused by heavy rains and long-pending road maintenance needs.

He assured the House that ongoing works would be completed at the earliest and that further funds would be provided based on requirements and proposals submitted by the respective urban local bodies.

₹5 cr project to develop Udupi lighthouse beach: H.K. Patil

BELAGAVI

Tourism Minister H.K. Patil announced that the Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Corporation will take up the development of Udupi district's Lighthouse Beach at an estimated cost of ₹5 crore. Responding to a question raised by BJP MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty during the Assembly Question Hour on Tuesday, the minister detailed ongoing and planned tourism infrastructure projects in the Kapu region.

Patil informed the House that the construction of a connecting bridge and an approach road at the endpoint of the Padubidri Nadighatta beach road in Kapu constituency has already been completed at a cost of ₹75 lakh. For the 2025–26 financial year, the state budget has allocated ₹86 crore for improving basic facilities at tourist destinations across Karnataka. Based on priority assessment, new works worth ₹14 crore will be taken up under this allocation, he added.

The minister also highlighted that the Karnataka Tourism Policy 2024–29 identifies several locations in Kapu taluk for development as major tourist destinations. These include Kapu Beach, Lighthouse Point, Padubidri End Point, the Blue Flag Beach, Kapu Marigudi Temple, Uchila Sri Mahalakshmi Temple, Udupi Kunjargiri Sri Durga Devi Temple, and the Muttu Rock islands.

Patil emphasized that the state government is committed to strengthening tourism infrastructure to attract more visitors and promote local economic development through enhanced connectivity and improved amenities at important coastal and cultural sites.

Minister Byrathi Suresh outlines measures to protect rivers

BELAGAVI

Urban Development and Town Planning Minister Byrathi Suresh informed the Legislative Council that all housing layouts across Karnataka are being developed only after ensuring that adequate buffer zones are maintained to prevent river sources from getting polluted. These buffer norms are mandated by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), he said.

Responding to a question by Council member K. Shivakumar during the Question Hour, the minister stated that housing layouts spread across more than 10 acres must compulsorily include a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) as per KSPCB regulations. Accordingly, STP sites are being earmarked in all such projects, and layout development is being carried out strictly following pollution control guidelines.

Suresh added that residential sites formed by various Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) are allotted to the public as per the provisions of the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Allotment of Sites) Rules, 1991. These rules ensure transparent and regulated distribution of sites. He further explained that the UDAs are acquiring land required for development projects through a combination of land acquisition procedures and farmer participation. As per the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Allotment of Sites in Lieu of Compensation for Land Acquired) Rules, 2009, layouts are being developed under a widely adopted 50:50 ratio.

'Temples must become centres of social harmony'

CHITRADURGA

Temples should serve as lifelines for local communities, functioning not only as places of worship but also as hubs for social activities and harmony, said Manohar Mathad, State Coordinator of the Temple Development Committee. He was addressing a priest training camp organised at the Sadguru Ashrama in Jogimatti.

Mathad noted that the training programme goes far beyond teaching rituals, mantras, and hymns. Its broader purpose is to transform temples into centres that promote social unity and community well-being. He stressed that temples should not remain confined to religious practices alone but must contribute to maintaining harmony within villages.

He explained that temples should support the needy by offering meals, and those with sufficient resources should help underprivileged children with their education. Priests are also being encouraged to initiate community activities such as yoga classes, health camps, libraries, and goshalas wherever possible.

He suggested that women gather at temples once a week to form mothers' groups, discuss self-reliant living, and organise community meals. Regular interactions with leaders from various social groups and informal cultural programmes can further strengthen community ties.

The district-level camp saw participation from 65 priests from all taluks, representing various castes and traditions. Participants ranged from those who recite mantras to individuals with postgraduate degrees. Over the past 18 months, eight such camps have been held across the state, training around 550 priests.

Speakers at the event—including entrepreneur Lavakumar and scholar Sri Rajaram Shastri—emphasised integrity, compassion, and sincerity in priestly duties. They reminded priests that clear and slow chanting helps devotees understand mantras and feel more connected.

The camp provided free training, along with prayer attire, books, pens, tulsi malas, and essential pooja materials.

State govt Allocates ₹5 lakh each for 23 Kambala festivals

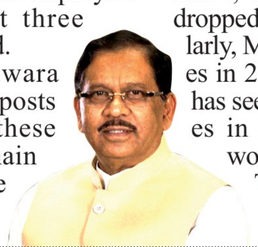
BELAGAVI

Tourism Minister H.K. Patil announced that the state government will provide ₹5 lakh each for 23 Kambala (buffalo race) festivals approved by the district Kambala committees in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts. The announcement was made during the Winter Session of the Legislative Assembly at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday, in response to a question by Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Rai. For the 2025–26 financial year, proposals seeking government funding for Kambala festivals in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada have been approved and forwarded to the Finance Department for release. The minister highlighted that in 2024–25, district authorities had already released a total of ₹50 lakh, providing ₹5 lakh each for Kambala festivals.

HM promises staff for Moodbidri and Mulki police stations

BELAGAVI

Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara on Tuesday assured the Legislative Assembly that steps are being taken to fill vacant PSI and police constable posts in Moodbidri and Mulki police stations in Dakshina Kannada district. Responding to a question by BJP MLA Umanath Kotian during Question Hour, the minister said that recruitment for 545 Police Sub-Inspectors and 3,500 constables is already underway, and both stations will receive adequate officers and staff once the process is completed. The newly appointed PSIs are currently undergoing training and will be deployed within the next three months, he added.



Dr. Parameshwara noted that some posts sanctioned for these two stations remain vacant. The long-standing confusion surrounding PSI recruitment over the past five years has now been resolved, enabling the government to speed up postings.

Highlighting crime control measures in the coastal region, the minister said a special task force has been set up and the "One Police for Every 50 Houses" model has been implemented — a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country. Under this system, each designated police personnel collects data from their assigned households and shares it with the department, helping significantly reduce crime rates.

He pointed out that Moodbidri police station registered 202 cases in 2023 and 224 in 2024, but the number has dropped to 174 in 2025. Similarly, Mulki recorded 120 cases in 2023, 149 in 2024, and has seen a decline to 121 cases in 2025. For enhanced women's safety, an "Akka Team" has also been established, he said.

Smooth implementation of child protection schemes: Hebbalkar

BELAGAVI

Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar has assured that all obstacles hindering the implementation of schemes under the Directorate of Child Protection will be removed. Chairing a meeting with department officials at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, the minister reviewed issues related to the effective execution of integrated child protection programmes and listened to the challenges with empathy.

CITU president Varalakshmi drew the minister's attention to certain shortcomings in the implementation of child protection initiatives and other departmental schemes. Responding to this, Minister Hebbalkar instructed officials present at the meeting to take necessary action to resolve the bottlenecks affecting the smooth execution of various programmes.

She also promised to convene a separate meeting soon with officials from the Finance Department to discuss and address issues related to financial constraints that are impacting the schemes.

Those present at the meeting included Sangamesh Babalashwar, Chairperson of the Child Development Academy; Dr. Shamla Iqbal, Principal Secretary of the Women and Child Development Department; Dr. Sneha, Director of the Child Directorate; Mahesh Babu, Director

MP Prabha Mallikarjun seeks information on unutilised CSR funds

DAVANGERE/DELHI

Davangere MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun has sought detailed information from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) regarding unutilised Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds in the country. In her query, she requested specifics on unspent CSR amounts for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024, including annual details of funds transferred to unutilised CSR accounts, CSR expenditure from 2020 onwards, government projects supported through CSR contributions, and measures taken to ensure equitable distribution of CSR funds across states.

In response, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs clarified that under the Companies Act, 2013, any unspent CSR funds from ongoing projects must be transferred to the unutilised CSR account within 30 days and are required to be spent within the next three years. If the funds remain unspent even after three years, they must be transferred to the Schedule VII fund within 30 days. For CSR amounts not linked to ongoing projects, transfer to the Schedule VII fund within six months is mandatory. The Ministry further explained that the planning, implementation, and evaluation of CSR projects are the responsibility of the CSR Committee of the respective company.

CID PROBE SOUGHT

Minister vKhandre seeks CID probe into land scam

BELGAVI

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging a CID investigation into an alleged plot to illegally acquire 532 acres of forest and government land using forged documents. He stated that those backing the conspiracy must be exposed and punished.

According to the minister, a man named M.B. Nemanna Gowda, also known as M.B. Manmath, filed a writ petition in the High Court claiming rights over 482 acres of reserved forest land at BM Kaval near Kengeri, Bengaluru, along with additional land totalling 532 acres. Using fabricated documents, he reportedly secured a court order directing that the land records be transferred to his name within three months under provisions of the Inam Abolition Act and an earlier order by a special deputy commissioner in Hassan.

Khandre noted that despite having 90 days to act, the government's additional advocate, Yoganna, failed to inform the government or the Forest Department about the case. Instead, he allegedly stated that filing an appeal was unnecessary, indirectly favouring the petitioner—an action the minister described as suspicious.

The land in question is estimated to be worth nearly ₹25,000 crore. Khandre said officials learned of the matter only at the last moment, after which he convened a meeting and instructed them to file an appeal immediately. He emphasized that Manmath has previously attempted to claim government property using fake documents, and a 2024 order by the then Chikkamagaluru Sub-Divisional Officer had even recommended criminal proceedings against him. Though a complaint was filed at Chikkamagaluru police station on November 28, no FIR has been registered yet—another point raising concern. Khandre urged the Chief Minister to form an SIT or hand the case to CID for a comprehensive probe and to take strict action against any officials who supported the land grab attempt, directly or indirectly.

D K Shivakumar calls for liberal excise laws

DCM Shivakumar urges liberal excise laws, highlights unofficial home delivery of liquor via quick-commerce platforms

BELAGAVI

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday highlighted that liquor is being delivered "unofficially" to homes via quick commerce platforms, urging the state government to adopt more liberal excise laws. Speaking during a debate in the state assembly, Shivakumar noted that platforms such as Amazon and Swiggy have simplified home delivery for essential goods like medicines and groceries, and questioned why liquor could not similarly reach consumers through official channels. He stressed that while liquor is available through informal means, it is not properly regulated, and the practice is widespread in several areas.

Shivakumar also suggested legalising unauthorised bars in the coastal region, pointing out that beer is already being sold on beaches despite restrictions. He proposed that such operations be regularised through proper licensing. Additionally, he called for reforms regarding home possession of liquor, noting that the current seven-bottle limit is frequently violated when visitors bring bottles, often resulting in raids and cases. JD(S) leader CB Suresh Babu raised concerns over illegal liquor sales in small shops, while BJP leader S Suresh Kumar alleged that gig workers were delivering narcotics via quick commerce platforms, warning that youth and society were being adversely affected. In response, Home Minister G Parameshwara assured that the government would take strict action if provided with specific information.

Shivakumar's statements reflect a push for regulatory reform, suggesting regularisation of liquor sales, liberalisation of excise policies, and oversight of informal delivery channels to curb illegal activities while increasing state revenue and consumer access.

Cybercrime cases decline in state in 2025: HM

BELAGAVI

Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that cybercrime cases in Karnataka have shown a decline in 2025 due to stringent measures taken by the state government and the police department. Responding during Question Hour to BJP MLA Cement Manju, he said that more than 52,000 cyber fraud cases were reported in the state over the past four years, prompting the government to introduce amendments to existing laws. However, the Indian Gaming Federation has challenged these changes, and the matter is currently before the Supreme Court.

Raising the issue, Cement Manju said that a large number of youths are falling prey to online gaming frauds. Despite government restrictions, the crimes continue unabated, and arrests remain limited. Karnataka, he noted, has recorded the highest number of such cases, with victims often losing money even before contacting the national cyber helpline. He urged the government to take stronger action.

In his detailed reply, Parameshwara said cybercrime has indeed grown rapidly in recent years. In 2023, Karnataka recorded 22,250 cases, of which 6,159 were detected. Fraud worth ₹880 crore occurred that year, and authorities managed to recover ₹177 crore.

In 2024, the number rose to 28,478 cases, involving a massive fraud of ₹2,562 crore, with ₹323 crore recovered.

So far in 2025, around 13,000 cases have been registered, involving losses of ₹2,038 crore, out of which ₹127 crore has been recovered. The minister emphasised that despite the high numbers, the overall trend for 2025 shows a reduction in cybercrime incidents due to enhanced surveillance and preventive measures.

BJP MLA Sunil Kumar also raised concerns about increasing cyber betting, remarking that online betting is now even being placed on who will become the next Chief Minister. He questioned what steps the government is taking to curb such activities.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SANIYAH** W/o Abdul Razak Mohammed Kareem, resident NO 1326/A Sri Laksmi Narasimha Nilaya 1st Main 1st Cross Prashant Nagar, Bengaluru – 560029, Have changed my name to **SANIYAH ABDUL RAZAKH**, vide affidavit dated: 09.12.2025, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMAD YAHIYA**, S/o. Late Mohammed Ali, resident of No. 307/1, Good Shapherd Convent Road, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysuru City-560001, have changed my father's name from **ZUBAIR MOHAMMED ALI** to **LATE MOHAMMED** ALI, Vide Affidavit Dated: 09.12.2025 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPA CHANDRASHEKHAR W/O V S CHANDRASHEKAR, R/O Hoysala Commanders Retreat, No. 1524, Flat No. B-010, Kodigehalli, Bhandrappa Layout, R.M.V. Extension II Stage, Bangalore North, Bengaluru - 560094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DOROTHY CHANDRASHEKAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIVYA BAI D S D/O Shiva Shankar Singh, R/O # 322/8, Dommasandra Circle, Opposite A P L, Sarjapura Road, Dommasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka - 562125, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DIVYA SINGH.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

NAME CHANGE

I, **SYED AHMED**, aged 39 years, S/o. Farukh Pasha, Residing at Gurupura Post, Halevaranchi, Hunsur Taluk, Mysuru District -571189, Karnataka, have changed my father's name from **FAROOK PASHA** to **FARUKH PASHA**, vide affidavit dated: 08.12.2025 before notary VEERESH RAO BOBADE, Hunsur.

Change of Name

I KISHAN M S/O MAHADEV RAMACHANDRA SETTY R/O # 416, 6th A Main Road, Behind H R B R Cosmopolitan Club, H R B R Layout, 2nd Block, Bangalore North, Kalyananagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560043, have changed the name of my minor son K.BAVISH aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as MANU KISHAN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAHABBOB MHAPARA alias MAHABOOB MAHAPARA alias MHABOOB MHAPARA W/o M MOHAMMED HABEEB, R/o #36 4th Cross, 2nd Main, Near Vittala Temple, Vittala Nagar, Chamrajpet, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MHAPARA.

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (SPECIAL SUB COURT) AT TIRUAPTTUR, TIRUPATTUR DISTRICT.,
M.C.O.P. No. 22 / 2025

Rukku ....**Petitioner**
Vs
Chakkaravarthy and another **Respondent**

To,
Chakkaravarthy Veeraragavan Krishnan
S/o. Veeraragavan Chakkaravarthy
Plot No.205 Ushooaya Pride CHEN layout
Bellandur, Bangaloru South
Karnataka State 560103.

Sir, Please take notice that the above case has been filed by the petitioner claiming compensation for the injury of Rukku in the road accident. The above case has been posted on 15/12/2025 for your appearances and you are hereby requested to appear before the Hon'ble court on 15/12/2025 at 10.30 a.m., either in person or through an advocate and file your objections. As otherwise the above case will be decided exparte.

S. KALAISELVI, B.A.,B.L.,
MS.No: 3045/2010 Advocate, Thamba Complex, Ground Floor, Periyakulam Near, Tirupattur-635 601. TPT.Dt.
Cell: 94439 89374

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (SPECIAL SUB COURT) AT TIRUAPTTUR, TIRUPATTUR DISTRICT.,
M.C.O.P. No. 14/2025

Thirupathi **Petitioner**
Vs
Chakkaravarthy and another **Respondent**

To,
Chakkaravarthy Veeraragavan Krishnan
S/o. Veeraragavan Chakkaravarthy, Plot No.205 Ushooaya Pride CHEN' layout
Bellandur, Bangaloru South
Karnataka State 560103.

Sir, Please take notice that the above case has been filed by the petitioner claiming compensation for the injury of Thirupathi in the road accident. The above case has been posted on 15/12/2025 for your appearances and you are hereby requested to appear before the Hon'ble court on 15/12/2025 at 10.30 a.m., either in person or through an advocate and file your objections. As otherwise the above case will be decided exparte.

S. KALAISELVI, B.A.,B.L.,
MS.No: 3045/2010 Advocate,
Thamba Complex, Ground Floor,
Periyakulam Near,
Tirupattur-635 601. TPT.Dt.
Cell: 94439 89374

e-Tender Notification

The tender are invited in Two Cover System as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website for Supply/Installation/AMC of following items required to the Joint Commissioner of Police Traffic, Bengaluru.

Sl No	Tender No	Particulars	Last date submission for tenders
1	KSP/2025-26/IND0454	Supply of IMV 133 Notices for offences generated through FTVR with VDP under BCRS and TMP to BTP under KSRS Fund of 2025-26	20/12/25
2	KSP/2025-26/IND0453	Supply and Installation of TRM at Major Junctions in Bengaluru City under BCRS and TM Project to BTP under KSRS Fund of 2025-26	20/12/25

For further details of the tender and the tender documents can be obtained for the public procurement portal.

Office of the Commissioner for Sericulture Development & Director of Sericulture
DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE
M.S. Building, 5th Floor, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560001. Phone: 080-22252611, e-mail: teamsilk.tech2@gmail.com

No: DOS:EPRO:RFIX:6:2025 **Date: 09-12-2025**

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER - (CALL-2)

The Commissioner for Sericulture Development & Director of Sericulture, Department of Sericulture, Bengaluru invites short term tender invitation for **Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Solar Bright Led Home Lighting System 5 Lights to beneficiaries under Central Sector and State Sericulture Scheme for the year 2025-26 (Call-2)** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). (SD/2025-26/IND0118/CALL-2).**

Last date for tender submission on **17-12-2025 5.00 PM.**

Prospective bidders can obtain more information on the tenders and bid document visiting the web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Additional Director of Sericulture (Tech) & Tender Inviting Authority

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562110
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–27682221, Email : itstaff_ulb_devanahalli@yahoo.co.in

ನಂ.ದೇಪು/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿಆರ್/05/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ KW-2 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ. ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಮತ್ತು 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಶೆಡ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಗಣೇಶ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಸರ್ಜಿಸಲು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು **ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ: 112.01 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಒಟ್ಟು 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ದುರ್ಗಾಶ್ರೀ.ಎನ್
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಿ/– ಶಿವಮೂರ್ತಿ ಎ,(ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎ.ಎಸ್)
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/4318/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 193 GRC 2025 **Date:13.10.2025**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Superintendent of Police, CID, Bengaluru City and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Superintendent of Police, CID, Bengaluru City and investigation officer for Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District Fraudulent Company and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the movable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Tribata Holidays Private Limited, Kushalnagar, Kodagu District and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure

Sl. No.	Vehicle Registration Number	Vehicle Details	Present Market Value (Rs.)	Remarks
1	KA-12 MB 1919	JEEP COMPASS CAR Chassis Number: MCANZRCY1LFA61608 Engine Number: 4061339	Rs. 20,00,000/-	-
2	KA-12 MA 5794	Hyundai EON (Model Era+) Chassis Number: MALA251ALJM627573 Engine Number: G3HAJM580716	Rs. 2,00,000/-	-

Sd/- (Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/4308/2025-26

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Hema Handur, Babu Vasappa Handur, **/MHL00980013865/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G. P No. 54, Rdpr PI.D. No. 150400701000300596, Situated At Hireangrolli Village, Gandigwad Grama Panchayat, Khanapur Block, Belagavi (D), Karnataka - 591106. Admeasuring: 95.38 Sq. Meters. East Property of Ashok Handur, West-Property of Neminath Handur, South-Gram Panchayath Road, North-Own Space	13-09-2025 Rs.507617/-	06-12-2025
2	Ranjitha R, Lolakshi R, Puttalingaiah K, Govinda D K, **/CO90COLONS 000005002279/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Property No. 411, Property I.d. No. 152100202800100448, Situated At Annuru Grama, Annuru Gramapanchayat, Maddur Tauk, Mandya (D), Karnataka - 571422. Measuring: East To West: 5.3340 Meter & North To South: 22.86 Meter. East-Property of Boramma, West-Property of Doddamogaiah., South-Private Property, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.621073/-	06-12-2025
3	Mamacha K, Harita M, Devendra M, **/NHL00510016118/** Shimoga	All That The Piece Or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 137, E-Property No. 151200105300600164, Measuring Total 92.90 Sq. Meter, Situated At Asthpanahalli Village, Hiremalali Village Panchayath, Channgiri Taluk, Davanagere District, Karnataka - 577221. East-House of Nageena, West-House of Bhagyasri, South-Road, North-Survey Number Land	13-09-2025 Rs.625958/-	06-12-2025
4	Sundramma C, Nanja Nayka M, **/MHL00340021218/** Mysore	Property No. 124/109/187/1, Unique No. 152200542080000119, Hura Village & Gp, Nanjanagudu Talluk, Mysore District., Main Road, Mysuru, P.O. Hura, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 571315. Totally Measuring 32.70 Square Meters. East-House of Prema Wife of Ramanaika, West-Road, South-Road, North-House of Govindarajanaika	13-09-2025 Rs.202243/-	06-12-2025
5	Bhagya N, Siddappaji V, **/MHL00340013015/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. Nanjundaswanynagara 12/80, Unique No. 150800300800121127, Madhuvinahalli Village, And Gp, Kollegala Taluk, Total Admeasuring Total 111.48 Square Mtr Chamarajanagara District. Karnataka, Pin: 571440. East-Vacant Site Belongs To Ningaraju, West-Vacant Site Belongs To Shivamallu, South-Road, North-Own Place	13-09-2025 Rs.251064/-	06-12-2025
6	Siddamma K, Marisiddaiah B, **/MHL00900020865/** Vivekananda Circle	Property No. 10/46/1 Unique No. 152200102015320014 Changowdanahalli Village Mulluru Gramapanchayt Saraguru Taluk Total Measuring 151.25 Meters Mysore District Karnataka, Pin: 571121. East-Conservancy And Place Belongs To Javarajaiah, West-Conservancy And House Belongs To Puttalakshmamma, South-Road, North-Place Belongs To K Geetha W/O Siddiaih	13-09-2025 Rs.263197/-	06-12-2025
7	Rani T, Lokesha N D, **/MHL00340013778/** Mysore	Property No.67/1/200, Unique No.152200602104500087, Naviluru Village& Gp, Periyapatna Talluk &Mysore District. measuring 178.82 Square Meters Karnataka, Pin: 571107. East-House Belongs To Doddathammaiah, West-House Belongs To Puttaiah, South-Government Road, North-Residential House Belongs Papamma	13-09-2025 Rs.285230/-	06-12-2025
8	Rathnamma Marichikka Shetty, Marichikkashetty Chennashetty, **/MHL00340036189/** Mysore	Property No. 88, Unique No. 152200538094000098, Nallithalapura, Village, & Gp, Nanjanagudu Block, Mysuru District., Main Road, Nanjangud, P.O. Hullahalli, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 571314. Admeasuring 98.85 Sq. Mts. East-House of Shivamallammashetty, West-Road, South-House of Srinivasa, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.318232/-	06-12-2025
9	Kavitha Bai, Mahanthesha Naik, **/MHL00480010692/** Davangare	Property No. 85, E Swathu No .151200601200320130, Measuring 12.1951X4.2682 Mts I.e 52.05 Sq Mts, Gurusiddapura Grama, Gurusiddapura Grama Panchayath Jagaluru Block, Venkateshwapura, Davanagare, P.O. Asagodu, Davanagare, Karnataka, Pin: 577513. East-House of Kotresh Naik, West-Road, South-Road, North-House of Lakshmi Bai	13-09-2025 Rs.326593/-	06-12-2025
10	Mahadevamma M, Putta Madaiah, **/MHL00900029025/** Vivekananda Circle	Property No. 191/225/2 As Per Form No.11B, Unique No. 152200100906020070, Situated At Devalapura Village, Heggadadevanakote Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka, Pin: 571114, Measuring East To West: 30.48 Meters North To South 18.288 Meters. East-Government Road, West-Property of Puttamadaiah, South-House of Somesh, North-House of Basavachari	13-09-2025 Rs.347014/-	06-12-2025
11	Venkateshanaika T, Jyothi V, Shivu R, **/NHL00340000419/** Mysore	Property No.142, P.I.D. No. 150800201700121487 Tirukanambi Grama Panchayat Gundlupete Karnataka, Temple, Chamarajanagar(D), Measuring: E-W: 9.14 Meter & N-S: 12.19 Meter P.O. Gundlupet, Chamrajnagar, Karnataka, Pin: 571111. East-Site No.143, West-Site No.141, South-Road, North-Site No.161	13-09-2025 Rs.412475/-	06-12-2025
12	Renukamma H, Koteppa B, Malatesha K, **/MHL00480019536/** Davangare	Khatha No. 3-4-539-199, Harihara, Ashraya Colony., Davanagare, P.O. Harihara, Davanagare, Karnataka, Pin: 577601, Ouse No. 66/160, Measuring 20X30 Feet, Its Assessment No. 5801/5801-66-16-/5801 P.I.D. No. 3-4-539-199 (6.0969.144 Meter) Situated At Aashraya Badavane, 2 Cross, Block No.4 Ward No.3, Hanhar City Within The Limits of City Municipality Hariha. East-House No.65, West-Vacant Site, South-House No.15, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.395640/-	06-12-2025
13	Rahul Nagesh Balekundri, Amita Rahul Balekundri, Laxmi Nagesh Balekundri, **/NHL00980013212/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No. 21/2. Rdpr P.I.D. No. 152700301100100042, Situated At Teragaon Village. Teragaon Grama Panchayat, Belagavi Block, Belagavi (D), Karnataka -581356 . Measuring: East To West: 2.80 & 2.10 Meter And North To South: 9.0 & 21.50 Meter. Admeasuring: 82.25 Sq. Meters. East-Property of Chandru Balekundri & Kiran Balekuni, West-Property of Shantaram Balekundri & Sandeep Balundri, South-Poachayat Road, North-Kannada School	13-09-2025 Rs.457743/-	06-12-2025
14	Laximi Maruti, Maruti Baburao, Rahul Baburao, Babu Rao Rao, **/NHL01170015505/** Raichur	Property Bearing No.6/16/A, P.I.D. No. 150600100300101601, Near Sanjeevini Primary School, Village Aurad, Tq Aurad, Dist Bidar, Karnataka, 585417. Extend of 83.22 Sq Meter. East-Jyotiram House, West-Geeta House, South-Eravantha Chouhan House, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.352432/-	06-12-2025
15	Mayamma K, Raju B C, Shivamma G, **/MHL00340025559/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.264, P.I.D. No.150800101200320183, Situated At Masagapura Village, Madapura Grama Panchayath, Chamarajanagara Taluk And Chamarajanagara District, Karnataka - 571313 Total Measuring 100. 34 Square Meters. East-House Belongs To Nagegowda., West-Way, South-Road, North-Mayamma	13-09-2025 Rs.413971/-	06-12-2025
16	Avinash S, Rajamma N, Thimmaraj N, **/NHL00920020664/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 325/186., E Khatha No: 152900102401520911, Total Measuring 28.61, Sq.meter, Appagere Village, Rampura Grama Panchayath, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562160. East House of Dasaiah, West-House of M Dasaiah S/O Late. Ningaiah, South-Government Road., North-House of Ramakrishna Murthy	13-09-2025 Rs.470575/-	06-12-2025
17	Ananda Shivappa Lamani, Premilavva Ananda Lamani, Chandru Lamani, **/NHL00480025615/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 311/3/B, E Swathu No. 151700502900120300, Measuring 18.8976 X 11.5824 Mts I.e 218.88 Sq Mts, Situated At Hanumapura Village, Hanumapura Gram Panchayath, Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri Dist, Karnataka - 581115. East-Property of Chandrappa Lamani, West-Road, South-Property of Giddavva Lamani, North-Property Of Giddavva Lamani	13-09-2025 Rs.478230/-	06-12-2025
18	Mallikarjuna R, Bhagya S S, Rajanna K, Mahadevamma G, **/NHL00340006656/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Honnuru Gramapanchayathi Property No. 163 And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 150800400600220074, Situated At Beechahalli Village, Yalanduru Taluk, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka - 571441 Measuring East To West: 6.096 Meters And North To South: 9.753 Meters. East-Vacant Site of B. Shivaswamy, West-Galli, South-Podachaiahana Nanjundaiah, North-Galli	13-09-2025 Rs.480852/-	06-12-2025
19	Devappa Balappa Lamani, Renukamma Devindrappa Lamani, Kumar Damralli, **/NHL00480017090/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 296, E Swathu No. 151700503500200354, Measuring 7.01932 X 8.8392 Mts I.e 63.58 Sq Mts, Situated At Srinivasapura Village, Rahutanakatti Gram Panchayath, Ranebennur Taluk Haveri Dist, Karnataka - 581115. East-Road, West-Road, South-Property of Hulagappa Balappa Lamani, North-Property of Savakka Sanappa Lamani	13-09-2025 Rs.519197/-	06-12-2025
20	K Shafi, K Imam Sab, M Hoorambi, I Jaitunbi, I Jilan, **/NHL00480020598/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Immovable House Bearing Assessment No. 165/B/94Cc/63, P.I.D. No. 29-506-54, Measuring As East To West 6.70 Mts And North To South 6.40 Mts, Situated At Ijari Shirasappa Badavane Harapanahalli, Vijayanagara Dist, Karnataka-583131. East-House of N. Rasul Sab, West-House of B Abdhul Rajak, South-House of Kalandar, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.510637/-	06-12-2025
21	Naveen M, Siddarajamma, Madeva, **/NHL00340039937/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 249/150, P.I.D. No. 150800400400620228, Situated At Bannisarige Village, Gowdahalli Gp, Yelanduru Taluk, Measuring 111.48 Sq.mtr Chamarajanagar District. Karnataka, Pin: 571442. East-House Belongs To Shivamma, West-House Belongs To Chinkkraiah, South-Road, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.537433/-	06-12-2025
22	Rukmini R, Nagesh C S, Jyothishgowda C N, **/MHL00910017966/** Hassan	All The Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No.151600502300100347, Gram Panchayath Property No.79/1, Cholenahalli (V), Bekka Gram Panchaythi, Channarayapattana Taluk Hassan District Totally Measuring 285.40 Squae Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 285.40 Square Mtrs Karnataka, Pin: 573135. East-Property Belongs To Sri. Govinda, West-House Property Belongs To Sri. Gopala Krishna, South-Property Belongs To Sri. Rudregowda, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.542499/-	06-12-2025
23	Syed Shafiulla S, Seema Banu S, Sumaiya Banu, **/NHL00910022917/** Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 22-501-54, Ward No. 12, Old Property No. 1920/1820/37, Sas No. 267, Muslim Beedi, Pette, Arakalagud Town, Arakalagud Taluk Hassan District Total Measuring 61.96 Sq.mtrs Karnataka, Pin: 573102. East-4 Feet Conservancy, West-22-21-25, South-22-21-27, North-21-501-43	13-09-2025 Rs.592847/-	06-12-2025
24	Shivukumara R, Rajanayaka M, Nagibai S, Kavitha Chavan T, **/NHL00340021232/** Mysore	Property Bearing B. Matakeri Gramapanchayathi Property No.134, Unique No.152200102502000190, Nemmanahalli Village & B Matakere Gp, Saraguru Taluk & Mysore District., Main Road, Mysuru, P.O. Matakere, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 571121 Measuring East To West: 12.192 Meters And North To South: 15.24 Meters Totally Measuring 185.81 Meters. East-House of Papanayak, West-House of Santosh, South-House of Krishnanayak, North-Road	13-09-2025 Rs.798473/-	06-12-2025
25	Jayanna Gowda G M, Anitha K P, Jayamma M, **/NHL00910033547/** Hassan	Survey No. 39, Property No. 35/51, Unique No. 151600701700300031, Govisomanahalli (V), Malali Gramapanchayath, Holenarasipura(T), Hassan (D)-573220, Near Temple, Hole Narsipur, P.O. Malali, Hassan, Karnataka, Pin: 573220,Measuring East To West: 13.1064 Meters And North To South: 6.4008 Meters,Totally Measuring 83.89 Squre Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 83.89. East-Property of Smt. Jayamma, West-Road, South-Property of Smt.Jayamma, North-Property of Smt. Jayamma	13-09-2025 Rs.810842/-	06-12-2025
26	Siddesha M, Manjula C, Mahehsa D, **/NHL00340016069/** Mysore	Property No. 229/244/244, Unique No. 152200523168000256, Basavattige Village, Hedatale Gp. Nanjangudu Taluk, Mysore District., Main Road, Nanjangud, P.O. Hedathale, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 571312,Measuring East To West 11.2776 Meters And North To South 6.4008 Meters,Totally 72.19 Sq Meters. East-Road, West-House Belongs To Mallanna, South-Path Way, North-House Belongs Manjunath	13-09-2025 Rs.845101/-	06-12-2025
27	Lokesha N P, Madhura A, Appegowda K, **/NHL00340023283/** Mysore	Property No. 189/72, Unique No:1522000602104500234, Navilurur Village & Gp, Periyapattana Talluk, Mysore District, Main Road, Piriyapatna, P.O. Alanahlli, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 571107 Measuring E-W: 12.192 Meter & N-S 12.192 Meter Admeasuring 148.64 Sq Mts. East-Govt Road, West-House of Kalegowda, South-House of Sannaswamy, North-Govt Road	13-09-2025 Rs.989440/-	06-12-2025
28	Gangamma M, Manjunatha B, Gowramma B, **/MHL00510013825/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Property No. 32/P, Property No. 152400601200300073, Measuring East-West 32.00 Meter X North-South 14.00 Meter, Total 448.00 Sq. Meter, Including 66.00 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Belavanthanakoppa Village, Ennekoppa Village Panchayath, Soraba Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577413. East-Village Panchayat Road, West-Property of Basavanthaappa Gogagganal, South-Conservancy Place, North-Village Panchayat Road	13-09-2025 Rs.482115/-	06-12-2025
29	Ganeshappa H S, Geetha G, Devendrappa, **/NHL00510008809/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 91/P, E-Property No. 152400402700100213, Measuring East-West 17.06 X North-South 3.65 Meter, Total 62.43 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Hirejamburu Village, Hirejamburu Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577428. East-V P Road, West-Property of Vanajakshamma W/O Kenchappa, South-Property of Channamma W/O Hanumanthappa, North-Property of Rudramma W/O Hanumanthappa	13-09-2025 Rs.499559/-	06-12-2025

Date: 10th December 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

QUICK READ

Police in J&K's Doda arrest madrasa teacher for raping minor

Jammu

Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district said on Tuesday that they have arrested a madrasa teacher for allegedly raping a minor. A police spokesperson said, A madrasa teacher was arrested for allegedly raping a minor in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district. The accused, identified as Nasir Majeed of Challer village, was arrested within three hours of receiving the complaint regarding the alleged incident at Madrasa Dar-ul-Quran in the Gandoh area. An FIR has been registered under relevant sections of the BNS and the POCSO Act.

Gujarat's 'Gaam No Nirdhar, Sahkaare Sakar' campaign gathers steam

Ahmedabad

Gujarat's Kheda district is witnessing enthusiastic community participation in its innovative nutrition initiative, Gaam No Nirdhar, Sahkaare Sakar, launched on November 14 to combat child malnutrition through collective action. Spearheaded by District Collector Amit Prakash Yadav and supported by Amul Dairy, the campaign encourages dairy farmers to voluntarily donate small quantities of milk each day for undernourished children enrolled in anganwadis. Awareness meetings have already been held with milk cooperatives in Matar, Nadiad, Vaso, Mahemdavad and Kathlal, where local MLAs and Amul officials have urged villagers to strengthen the drive.

TN govt fast-tracks welfare schemes, appointments

Chennai

With the Assembly election on the horizon, the Tamil Nadu government has put its administrative machinery into overdrive, prioritising the rollout of flagship welfare schemes and the filling of long-pending vacancies across departments. The renewed push covers everything from the restart of the free laptop distribution scheme for students to the expansion of the Kalaignar Mahalir Urimai Thogai assistance for women, besides expedited recruitment at the grassroots level. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin is set to formally kick-start the fresh phase of free laptop distribution to college students, officials said.

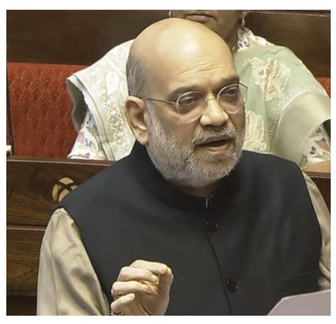
Amit Shah slams opposition linking Vande Mataram to elections

Amit Shah criticised Opposition leaders for politicising the 150-year Vande Mataram commemoration, asserting the national song transcends regional boundaries.

NEW DELHI

Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Opposition for connecting the Rajya Sabha discussion commemorating 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' to the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, stating firmly that the national song belongs to the entire nation and not to any single state.

Initiating the discussion in the Upper House, Shah said, This great House has come together to reflect on the spirit of Vande Mataram, to honour its glory, and to keep it eternally alive. Through this



discussion, especially for our country's children, adolescents, youth and future generations, they must understand Vande Mataram's contribution to our freedom struggle, the patriotism embodied in its composition, and the spirit of dedication to the nation and its culture.

He added that such understanding would inspire younger generations to contribute to building a great India.

Responding to criticism from some Opposition members, Shah noted, Some members raised questions in the Lok Sabha yesterday, asking why there is a need for the discussion on Vande Mataram. The need for discussion on Vande Mataram, the need for dedication towards Vande Mataram, was important back then; it is needed now, and it will always be significant for the formation of great India, which we have envisioned for 2047.

Shah also condemned attempts to link the event to the upcoming West Bengal elections, saying, Some people think that because elections are approaching in Bengal, that is why Vande Mataram is being discussed; they want to diminish the glory of Vande Mataram by linking it to the Bengal elections. He stressed that although composer Bankim Chandra Chatterjee hailed from Bengal and Anandamath, the novel where the song first appeared, originated there, Vande Mataram's reach expanded far beyond the region.

BJP legislators clashed with Treasury benches demanding action against IAS officer Tukaram Munde, prompting a brief Assembly adjournment.

Maharashtra Assembly adjourns amid BJP demands against Munde

NAGPUR

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly was adjourned for ten minutes on Tuesday after BJP legislators raised serious allegations against senior IAS officer Tukaram Munde, triggering heated exchanges between the Treasury and Opposition benches.

BJP MLA Krishna Khopade, who initiated the discussion, alleged that Munde had issued cheques worth ₹20 crore in 2020 without the required authorisation. He further claimed that two supporters of the officer had threatened him, warning him against speaking out. I have filed a police complaint at Sitabardi police station and informed the police commissioner, as well as the offices of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Speaker Rahul Narwekar, Khopade said. He added that Munde had been transferred 24 times in 20 years, calling for a detailed inquiry into the officer's conduct.

Supporting the allegations,

BJP legislator Pravin Datke told the House that Munde had cancelled the leave of a woman employee who had delivered a baby just five days earlier. He also said that several of Munde's decisions had been overturned by the Urban Development Department. There should be a thorough investigation, Datke asserted.

Responding to the charges, Minister Girish Mahajan informed the Assembly that the concerned legislators had already discussed the matter with Chief Minister Fadnavis. The Chief Minister has taken the issue seriously, and appropriate action will follow, he said.

Despite the minister's assurance, protests from the Treasury benches intensified, prompting Deputy Speaker Anna Bansode to adjourn the proceedings for ten minutes. After the House reconvened, Khopade and Datke reiterated their demand for swift action against the IAS officer. The issue is expected to continue dominating the Assembly's discussions as legislators seek clarity on the allegations and the government's next steps.

Vikram Bhatt sent to 7-day police custody in Rs 30 cr fraud case

JAIPUR

Bollywood filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his wife Shwetambari have been remanded to seven days of police custody by the ACJM court in Udaipur in connection with an alleged Rs 30 crore fraud case. The couple was arrested from their Mumbai residence on December 7 and brought to Udaipur.

The duo was produced in court on Tuesday afternoon. DSP Chhagan Singh Rajpurohit is leading the investigation.

Upon arrival in Udaipur, both attempted to avoid media cameras. Vikram Bhatt has already challenged the case in the Jodhpur High Court, where the hearing is scheduled.

Earlier, the Udaipur Police had arrested co-producer Mehboob Ansari and vendor Sandeep from Mumbai on November 16. The court granted conditional bail to Sandeep on Monday, while rejecting Ansari's bail plea. A six-member police team led by DSP Rajpurohit reached Mumbai and arrested Vikram and Shwetambari Bhatt from their Juhu flat.

Their security staff initially attempted to block the police, claiming the couple was not home, but both were eventually taken into custody.

Special Roll Observers Tasked with Detecting Deliberate Errors in WB Voter List Revision

KOLKATA

The five additional special roll observers appointed for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal will focus primarily on identifying deliberate data entry errors during the second stage of the revision, which begins after the publication of the draft voters' list on December 16.

According to officials in the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) office, West Bengal, the observers have been tasked not only with detecting specific intentional errors but also with identifying individuals within the system responsible for such lapses. They will subsequently recommend disciplinary action against those found culpable.

Sources said that the second phase of the SIR will also include a performance evaluation of Booth-Level Officers (BLOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), based on their effectiveness during the first stage of the revision.

The second stage will involve filing of claims and objections, along with a notice phase that includes issuance, hearing, verification, and decisions on enumeration forms. These activities will be conducted concurrently by EROs. Once this phase concludes, the third and final stage—publication of the final electoral roll—will take place on February 14. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to announce the dates for the high-stakes West Bengal Assembly elections shortly thereafter.

Five special observers will oversee West Bengal's voter list revision, targeting deliberate data errors before crucial Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, officials reported a major improvement in voter roll accuracy. As of Monday afternoon, the number of polling booths identified as having no deceased voters, no duplicate entries, and no shifted voters dropped dramatically to just two, compared to the alarming 2,208 booths reported on the evening of December 1. The sharp correction reflects intensified scrutiny and corrective measures initiated during the revision process. Separately, the ECI has decided to withdraw its proposal to set up polling booths inside large housing complexes with multiple high-rise towers.

Delhi Crime Branch busts factory producing counterfeit oil filters of top auto brands

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted a factory allegedly involved in manufacturing counterfeit oil filters of well-known automotive brands, including Bosch, Tata and JCB, the Delhi Police said on Tuesday. The operation, led by the ARSC unit of the Crime Branch, resulted in the recovery of 1,917 duplicate oil filters along with dyes, printing equipment and branded packaging material.

According to Delhi Police, the raid was conducted on December 4 in the Anand Parbat Industrial Area after a specific tip-off was received by SI Imran Khan about the ongoing manufacture of duplicate auto parts.

A team comprising SIs Imran Khan, Devi Dayal and Gurmeet, along with other staff, and led by Inspectors Mangesh Tyagi and Robin Tyagi, carried out the operation under the supervision of ACP Sanjay Kumar Nagpal.

Police said factory owner Manmeet Singh, a resident of Delhi, was apprehended from the spot. The raid was conducted in the presence of authorised representatives of Tata Motors, Bosch Ltd and JCB India.

A total 1917 duplicate Oil Filters of Bosch, Tata & JCB Brand and 05 Dyes of Tata brand, 04 Dyes of JCB brand, 01 Dye Printing Machine, JCB stickers, holograms and card boxes were seized from the factory, the police said in its press note.

In this regard, a case under Sections u/s 63/65 Copyright Act & 103/104 Trademark Act, P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi, was registered, and investigation was taken up accordingly. Sections 318(4)/336 (3) of BNS pertaining to cheating and forgery were also added in the case, it said.

Police said the investigation now focusses on identifying the supply chain and other individuals who may be involved in the illegal manufacturing activity.

Supreme Court notice to ECI on plea seeking SIR instead of 'Special Revision' of electoral rolls

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a writ petition challenging the poll panel's decision to conduct only a Special Revision of the electoral rolls in Assam, instead of undertaking a more rigorous Special Intensive Revision (SIR) ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi sought the ECI's response and posted the matter for further hearing next Tuesday.

The petition, filed by senior advocate and former Gauhati High Court Bar Association President Mrinal Kumar Choudhury, argued that Assam has been singled out for a diluted revision exercise, even though the ECI had earlier informed the apex court that SIR would be conducted pan-India.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria termed the ECI's approach arbitrary and discriminatory.

Assam has been singled out. Nothing is required in Assam. No document required, Hansaria submitted, referring to the fact that under the Special Revision process,

electors are not required to furnish any proof of citizenship, age or residence, unlike in an SIR where electors must submit supporting documents along with their enumeration forms.

The senior counsel relied on the Supreme Court's observations in multiple judgments, including the Constitution Bench verdict in In Re: Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, which recognised large-scale demographic changes in Assam due to infiltration.

He pressed for an immediate stay on the ongoing revision process in Assam. However, the CJI-led bench remarked that the ECI might have adopted a different approach for Assam because of the special laws applicable in the state, the constitution of foreigners' tribunals, etc.

They might have done it so. Might be, said the apex court, declining to pass interim orders without hearing the ECI.

Decomposed body of elderly man recovered from locked house

KOLKATA

The horror of the Robinson Street incident has returned in Kolkata, with a daughter found sitting in a locked room alongside her father's decomposed body. Her mother was also present, police said. The incident occurred in Kabsa's Bosepukur area, and locals helped the police recover the body from the residence.

The deceased has been identified as 64-year-old Sumit Sen. His body has been sent for autopsy, and it is not yet clear when or how he died. Preliminary investigations suggest that all three family members had long-term mental health issues.

Sumit lived with his wife, Archana Sen, and daughter, Sampriti Sen, on the first floor of their Bosepukur home. He had worked in a private organisation, and since retirement, neighbours often looked after the family, as they rarely left the house.

For three days, the family was not seen outside, raising suspicion. Relatives contacted Sampriti, who insisted her parents were fine, but they did not respond over the phone. When neighbours visited, the door was locked from the inside, and no one answered repeated knocks.

REVANTH PRAISES SONIA

Revanth Reddy Calls Sonia Gandhi Fountainhead of Telangana's Success on Her 79th Birthday

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday hailed Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) leader Sonia Gandhi as the fountainhead for the success of Telangana, emphasising that she remains the guiding force behind the state's ambitious long-term vision.

Extending his greetings on the occasion of her 79th birthday, Reddy said Sonia Gandhi's most significant contribution was granting separate statehood to Telangana after decades of public struggle. She is the fountainhead for the success of Telangana and continues to serve as an inspiring and guiding force for achieving all our goals and the ambitious vision – Telangana Rising 2047, he said. The Chief Minister added that he prayed for her continued guidance so the government may serve the people of Telangana better every day, in every way.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka also conveyed his wishes, stating that Sonia Gandhi breathed

life into the dreams of four and a half crore Telangana people. He said the political resolve and inspiration she provided during the statehood movement remain deeply etched in the hearts of all Telanganites. With her blessings, he added, Telangana is rapidly advancing on the path of development. We must all strive together to achieve a Telangana of social justice, equality, and peaceful prosperity, he said.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud praised Sonia Gandhi's leadership and unwavering values, calling them a guiding light for millions. Sharing his greetings on X, he wished her a year of peace, strength, and joy.

IT and Industry Minister D. Sridhar Babu also extended his wishes, describing her leadership, resilience, and commitment to inclusive governance as sources of inspiration for the Congress family. He wished her good health and peace in the coming year. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar offered an emotional tribute, highlighting her role in fulfilling a six-decade-long aspiration.

QUICK READ

BSF trooper found dead in J&K's Samba

Jammu

A Border Security Force (BSF) trooper was found dead under suspicious circumstances in J&K's Samba district on Tuesday, officials said. Constable Sukhdeep Singh, a resident of Ferozpur in Punjab, was found lying in a canal at Rehiyan village. Locals shifted him to the district hospital in Samba, where doctors declared him dead, an official said. Preliminary police investigation suggests he was travelling on a motorcycle and may have accidentally fallen into the canal. Police have initiated inquest proceedings to ascertain the exact cause of death, the official added.

Two drug peddlers held in J&K's Baramulla

Srinagar

The police in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district said on Tuesday that it has arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 964 grams of heroin from them. A police statement said, In a sustained effort to combat the menace of narcotics, Baramulla Police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered a substantial quantity of contraband from their possession. A police team of Baramulla Police, under the close supervision of Baramulla Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Baramulla Assistant Superintendent of Police Headquarter Neha Jain (IPS), and Baramulla Police Station Station House Officer Inspector Owais Geelani carried out a targeted operation near Government Medical College Baramulla Parking Area.

Do not use ECI's logo in news related to local body polls: Maha CEO

Mumbai

The office of the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S. Chockalingam on Tuesday instructed the media not to use the Election Commission of India's logo in news related to local body elections. The polling for 264 local bodies during the first phase took place on December 2, while for the remaining, it is slated for December 20. Counting will be taken up on December 21. It has come to notice that some media reports concerning elections to local self-government bodies in the state have used symbols related to the Election Commission of India, visuals of its buildings, or photographs of the Chief Electoral Officer.

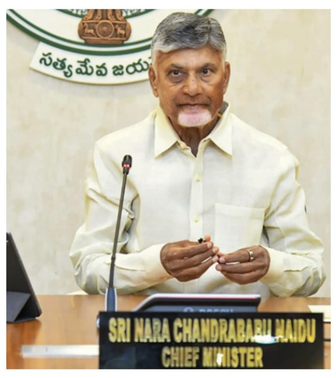
Naidu urges NDA leaders to join 'Atal Sandesh–Modi Suparipalana' Yatra

Chandrababu Naidu called on NDA leaders to participate actively in a statewide yatra promoting Atal Bihari Vajpayee's governance ideals.

AMRAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday urged leaders of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to take part in the 'Atal Sandesh–Modi Suparipalana' Yatra, scheduled to be held across the state from December 11 to 25. The initiative aims to spread the message of good governance advocated by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as part of his birth centenary celebrations.

Addressing NDA ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs during a teleconference, Naidu appealed to the leadership of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jana Sena to ensure the programme's success through active involvement. He also congratulated the BJP state executive for its decision to organise the yatra statewide, noting that such efforts would inspire the youth by highlighting Vajpayee's legacy.



Describing Vajpayee as a political Bhishma, the Chief Minister said it was a matter of pride to hold the event during the centenary year of the late leader. He emphasised that Vajpayee laid a strong foundation for good governance in India, implementing policies that sowed the seeds of long-term national development. Mr Vajpayee was a leader with no enemies and provided leadership that every Indian is proud of, Naidu remarked.

He further highlighted Vajpayee's remarkable journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of India's most respected statesmen. Vajpayee was elected to the Lok Sabha nine times and to the Rajya Sabha twice, reflecting his stature and popularity, Naidu noted.

Recalling important milestones in Vajpayee's life, Naidu mentioned his participation in the Quit India movement at the age of 18, the Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted in 1998 to showcase India's strength, and his decisive leadership during the Kargil War.

Yogi Adityanath warns divisive forces, urges national unity Gorakhpur

Yogi Adityanath cautioned against divisive forces and urged citizens to embrace national unity while honouring India's military legacy.

GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday warned against forces attempting to divide society and the nation along caste, regional or linguistic lines, saying such elements were committing sins akin to those of Jaichand and Mir Jafar. He asserted that individuals motivated by narrow interests were working to weaken the country and prioritising personal gain over national welfare.

There are people who want to break the country — some in the name of caste, some in the name of region, and some in the name of language, he said. He added that when such elements come to power, they think only of themselves and their families, acquiring properties, hotels and even islands abroad while pushing the nation toward poverty. CM Yogi stressed that true national progress is possible only when unity prevails and discrimination is eliminated.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while serving as the chief guest at the inauguration of a newly constructed auditorium at Sainik School Gorakhpur. The facility, which can accommodate more than 1,000 people, has been named after India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat. During the event, Yogi Adityanath unveiled a statue of General Rawat, installed by the GBR Memorial Foundation of India on his fourth death anniversary, and released a booklet detailing his exceptional life and service.

Reflecting on General Rawat's enduring contribution to national security, the Chief Minister highlighted the contemporary challenges India faces and urged citizens to embrace the five pledges articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build a Viksit Bharat (Developed India). He described these pledges as eternal life mantras essential for shaping India's future.

Referring to the Amrit Mahotsav of independence, he recalled the Prime Minister's appeal to develop a clear roadmap for India's growth by 2047, the centenary of independence.

Opposition parties initiated impeachment steps against Justice Swaminathan after his order permitting Karthigai Deepam lighting sparked major controversy.

INDIA Bloc Moves to Impeach Madras HC Judge Over Controversial Karthigai Deepam Order

CHENNAI

The INDIA bloc has formally begun the process of moving an impeachment motion against Madras High Court judge G. R. Swaminathan, following his controversial directive allowing the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam lamp atop a stone pillar at the disputed Thiruparankundram Hill in Tamil Nadu. A memorandum seeking his removal has already been submitted to the Lok Sabha Speaker, signalling a major escalation in the political and legal dispute.

Justice Swaminathan's order, which permitted the traditional lighting of the Karthigai Deepam during the festival, ignited protests and significantly heightened tensions in and around Madurai. Police subsequently restricted public access to the hill area, citing law and order concerns, further intensifying public outcry and political criticism.

The matter continues to be under legal scrutiny, even as opposition parties sharpen their stance. Leaders from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Communist Party of India (CPI), and other INDIA alliance constituents have held multiple rounds of internal consultations to assess the implications of the judge's directive on communal harmony and public order.

The issue was brought to Parliament, where several opposition MPs accused Justice Swaminathan of judicial overreach in a matter they argued was highly sensitive and capable of provoking unrest. They claimed that the order interfered with administrative decisions aimed at maintaining peace in the area.

A senior Tamil Nadu MP confirmed that the INDIA bloc is preparing to introduce a formal impeachment motion in Parliament. Under constitutional provisions, the removal of a High Court judge requires the signatures of at least 100 Lok Sabha members and 50 Rajya Sabha members before the motion can be admitted for further consideration.

India, Nepal DGMOs validate SURYAKIRAN-XIX, cement military brotherhood

PITHORAGARH

The Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the Indian Army, Lt Gen Manish Luthra and Nepal Army, Maj Gen Anup Jung Thapa jointly witnessed and validated the two-day Battalion-level Validation Exercise conducted as part of Exercise SURYAKIRAN–XIX, marking the culmination of an intensive combined training cycle at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh, defence officials said on Tuesday. The validation exercise successfully demonstrated joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for Counter-Terrorism operations mandated under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. According to the defence officials, the drills integrated a range of niche technologies including ISR and precision-targeting drones, advanced day/night weapon sights, AI-enabled surveillance feeds, unmanned operational and logistics platforms and secure battlefield communication systems.The exercise highlighted seamless interoperability, synchronised mission planning and coordinated execution of combined tactical operations in a CT environment at Battalion, Company and small-team levels.

Troops rehearsed Intelligence-based surgical operations across complex terrains, including the employment of aerial insertion modes to enhance rapid-response capability, officials said.

Recognising the importance of shared security and humanitarian preparedness in the strategic Himalayan region, both DGMOs lauded the exercise for strengthening operational synergy, deepening mutual trust and reinforcing the long-standing military brotherhood between the two Armies.

As a symbol of this enduring partnership, the DGMOs jointly planted a Tree of Friendship, reaffirming the timeless bonds and strategic cooperation between India and Nepal. It is pertinent to note here that the 19th edition of Joint Military manoeuvres 'Exercise SURYAKIRAN XIX - 2025' commenced on November 25 at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The exercise was being conducted from November 25 to December 8, 2025.

NADDA TO LAY STONE FOR BJP OFFICE

SHIMLA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national President and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda will arrive in the Himachal Pradesh capital on Friday and will lay the foundation stone for the party's state-level office here the next day. This is his first visit to the state after the historic and landslide victory of the BJP and the NDA in Bihar.

State party chief Rajeev Bindal said there is immense enthusiasm among the workers and the public across the state over the party chief's visit.

He said the arrival of such a popular and hard-working leader in Himachal Pradesh, whose able leadership led the NDA to a historic victory in Bihar, is a matter of pride and joy for all of them.

The people of Himachal Pradesh are eagerly awaiting the arrival of this beloved leader.

He announced that a grand felicitation ceremony will be held on Saturday at the historical Peterhof complex, located in the heart of the city, where thousands of workers and residents will warmly welcome him.

Bindal also informed that on Saturday, Union Minister Nadda will lay the foundation stone and perform the 'bhoomi pujan' (groundbreaking ceremony) of the BJP's proposed state-level office here.

MAHARASHTRA STRAY DOGS

Maharashtra MLAs Seek Action on Stray Dogs

NAGPUR

Ruling and opposition members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Tuesday raised alarm over the increasing stray dog menace in both urban and rural areas, calling for urgent and comprehensive intervention. Several MLAs argued that current measures were insufficient and pressed the government to establish Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres and shelter homes across the state to address the escalating problem.

Responding to a calling attention motion moved by BJP legislator Atul Bhatkhalkar and others, Minister of State for Urban Development Madhuri Misal informed the House that the government had approved the implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017, and the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023. These rules will now be enforced across all Municipal Corporations and the 93 Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats.

Misal further announced that a State-level Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committee (ABCMC) has been formed under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department. The committee will supervise and coordinate the implementation of the ABC programme throughout the state. A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for carrying out the Animal Birth Control programme has also been prepared, along with guidelines to effectively manage stray dog populations. These procedures are being implemented in coordination with the Animal Husbandry Department and the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

The minister assured the Assembly that local self-government bodies — including Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats — are making sustained efforts to reduce stray dog numbers.

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Email : sbi.61798@sbi.co.in

The Authorised Officer's Details:
Mr.Ramabalasubramanian.G
Mobile No.95976 76677
Contact Person : Venkatesh R
Mobile No: 98408 87013

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India being the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** basis on **24.12.2025,** for recovery of below mentioned amount with future interest and costs due to the **State Bank of India, SME GANAPATHY (61798), COIMBATORE** from the borrower/s and guarantor/s as below mentioned.

Name & Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower : M/s Sai Skand Enterprises Private Limited, Door no 273, 2nd Floor, Monalisa, 6th Main 100 Feet Road, Defence Colony, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka, 560038, **Guarantor : 1.Mrs. Chellammal.R,** D/o.Mr Ramasamy, No 90/10,No.90/11, D1, VIP Thamarai Nagar, Gandhiji Street 2, Kollampalayam, Erode-638002, **2.Mr.Madhavan Vaiyapuri,** S/o.Vaiyapuri, No.90/10, No.90/11, D1, VIP Thamarai Nagar, Gandhiji Street 2, Kollampalayam, Erode-638002, **3.Mr.Vijai Babu Madhavan**, No.504, First Floor, 3rd Cross, 9th Main,Indira Nagar, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560008, **Corporate Guarantee : 4.M/s.Sundance Estates Private Limited**, Old No.H-60, New No.H-84, Ground Floor, Periyar Nagar, Erode-638001,
Amount outstanding as on **09.12.2025** : **Rs.4,84,31,153/- (Rupees Four Crores Eighty Four Lakhs Thirty One Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Three Only)** plus further interest, costs and charges thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property belonging to Mr.Madhavan Vaiyapuri, S/o.Vaiyapuri (Document no.10623/2023 dated 31.07.2023- All that part and parcel of the property in Tirupur Registration District, Avinashi Sub-Registration District, Avinashi Taluk, in Perumanallur Village, the landed properties in SF.No: 304 assessed at Rs. 5.21 measuring an extent of 3.08 acres under Patta No: 1382, the landed property sub divided as SF.No:304/1 in this P.Hec. 0.72 assessed at Rs.3.00 an extent of 1.78 acres of land, in this on the Southern part an extent of 0.40 acres of land is situated within the following **boundaries:** North of -Lands in SF. No: 300 / B, East of -South North Road in SF. No: 318, South of -Property belonged to N.Karupathal & V.Gomathi in SF. No: 304/1, West of -Property belonged to R. Easwaramoorthi in SF.No: 304/2 part. Admeasuring an extent of P.Ac. 0.40 acres of land and its deposit and all usual and common rights in pathway and all appurtenances as per the parental documents and other mamool roads to reach the property. The said property is situated in SF. No: 304/1B at Perumanallur Village within the limits of Perumanallur Village Panchayat.
Latitude, Longitude : 11.220037, 77.358521

Reserve Price : Rs.3,24,00,000/- EMD Amount : Rs.32,40,000/- Bid Multiplier : Rs.25,000/-

Encumbrances known to the Bank if any: Nil. However, the bidders are requested to make their own enquiry.

DETAILS OF E-AUCTION SALE :

Date and time of e- Auction : 24.12.2025 (Wednesday) 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 PM (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded)
Inspection of properties : 23.12.2025 (Tuesday) between 11.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m
Last Date for Submission of Proof of EMD : Interested bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home before the close of e-Auction
EMD shall be deposited through NEFT to credit of PSB Alliance Baanknet E-WALLET (Refer Point No.13-b in terms & conditions uploaded in the website)

Pre-bid EMD being the 10% of Reserve Price to be transferred by interested bidders in the global EMD wallet of https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home by means of funds. Interested bidder may deposit pre-bid EMD with PSB Alliance Baanknet before the close of e-auction. Credit of pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in PSB Alliance Baanknet Bank Account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.
The auction will be conducted online only, through the web portal https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home. **The bidder registration should be completed by bidder well in advance, before e-auction date as the process takes minimum of two to three working days.**
For detailed terms and conditions of the E-auction sale, steps to be followed by the bidder for registering with e-auction portal and for E-Auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration etc, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home

Place : Coimbatore
Date : 09.12.2025

Authorised Officer
State Bank of India

QUICK READ

Failed military coup rocks Benin, leader flees

COTONOU

A short-lived military coup shook Benin early Monday, leaving casualties before government forces regained control. Around 5 a.m., soldiers calling themselves the Committee for Refoundation seized the national TV station, claiming to remove President Patrice Talon. The uprising, led by Lt. Col. Pascal Tigri, was quickly crushed with help from Nigerian and Ivorian forces. Several arrests were made, hostages released, and armored vehicles disabled. Calm returned to Cotonou by Monday afternoon.

India, Canada restart intelligence sharing and cooperation

OTTAWA

India and Canada have resumed intelligence sharing and security cooperation after tensions over past allegations involving Indian agents. Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart Nathalie Drouin have established direct communication channels to rebuild trust. The two countries are enhancing law enforcement dialogue, with agencies like India's NIA and Canada's RCMP holding ongoing virtual discussions on gangs, terrorism, and weapons movement. Officials said the focus is on safer streets in Canada and stronger collaboration.

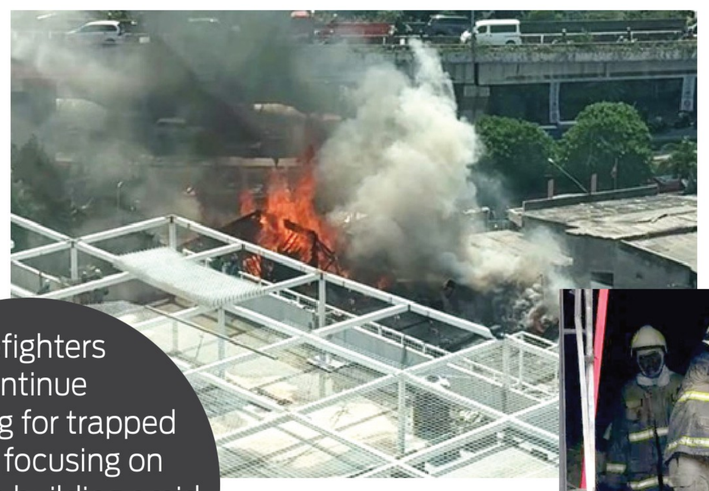
Over 1,500 Afghans forcibly returned from neighbors

KABUL

Over 1,500 Afghan refugees were forcibly sent back from Pakistan and Iran, officials said on Tuesday. The High Commission for Addressing Migrants' Issues reported that 320 families, totaling 1,579 people, returned through border points in Helmand, Nimroz, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Herat. Of these, 521 families were escorted to their home areas, while 306 received humanitarian aid, and 397 SIM cards were distributed. UNHCR data shows Pakistan arrested over 100,000 Afghans this year, a record rise. Humanitarian groups urged that returns be voluntary, warning of housing and employment challenges for families at the border.

Deadly Jakarta fire claims twenty lives, authorities say

Continued from page 1



Firefighters continue searching for trapped victims, focusing on cooling the building amid intense heat, thick smoke, and recovery efforts

At least 20 people were killed Tuesday afternoon in a fire that engulfed a seven-storey office building in central Jakarta, police reported. The blaze began when a battery on the first floor exploded, rapidly spreading flames and smoke to upper levels.

Central Jakarta police chief Susatyo Purnomo Condro told reporters that of the victims, five were men and 15 were women, including a pregnant woman. Most of the deceased appeared to have died from asphyxiation rather than burns. Their bodies were taken to a police hospital for autopsy.

Firefighters are still searching the building for any additional victims who may be trapped. Condro said crews were focused on cooling the structure, as intense heat and thick smoke persisted across several floors. Authorities are also working to identify the victims recovered so far.

Deadly fires are unfortunately not uncommon in Indonesia. In 2023, an explosion at a nickel-processing plant in eastern Indonesia killed 12 people and injured 39 others. Fire safety challenges, combined with rapid urban growth, have made high-rise fires a recurring risk in the capital.

Officials have urged the public to remain cautious and have vowed a thorough investigation into the cause and circumstances of the fire. Emergency responders continue to assess the building for structural safety before resuming full operations.

The Jakarta community has expressed grief over the tragic incident, with authorities promising to support the victims' families and prevent similar accidents in the future.

Kim Jong-un offers condolences to Putin's loss

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has sent a message of condolence to Russian President Vladimir Putin following the death of Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Matsegora in Pyongyang, state media reported Tuesday. Matsegora passed away on December 6 at the age of 70, though the cause of death has not been disclosed. In his message, Kim expressed "deep condolences" to Putin, the Russian leadership, and the late ambassador's family. He described Matsegora as a "close friend and comrade of the DPRK people" who devoted over 30 years to strengthening North Korea-Russia relations. Kim noted that the ambassador's efforts helped transform bilateral ties into a "firm alliance," calling his sudden death a "heartbreaking event and a great loss" at a crucial time for relations between the two nations. Russia's foreign ministry confirmed Matsegora's death on Saturday. He first joined the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang in 1999 and became Russia's top envoy to North Korea in 2015. In recent years, he played a key role in coordinating cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow.

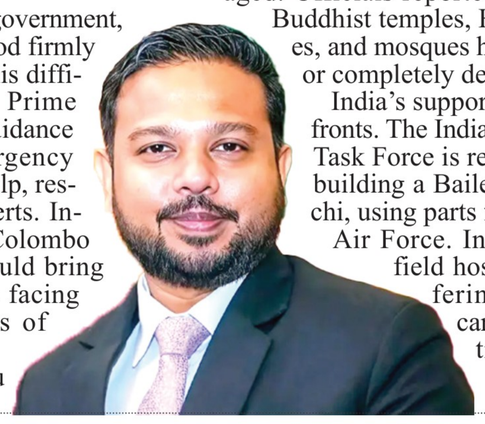
Hemachandra highlighted India's support for Sri Lanka, providing emergency supplies, technical aid, rescue teams, and relief for flood-hit communities

India's aid strengthens SL recovery

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has expressed heartfelt thanks to India for sending swift and much-needed help as the country continues to cope with the destruction left by Cyclone Ditwah. The Indian Naval Ship Gharial reached Trincomalee carrying 700 tonnes of food, clothes, and other essential supplies from Tamil Nadu. Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Hemachandra received the cargo and praised India's timely support under Operation Sagar Bandhu.

Hemachandra said India's government, military, and people have stood firmly with Sri Lanka throughout this difficult period. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guidance had ensured not only emergency supplies but also technical help, rescue teams, and disaster experts. India's High Commission in Colombo added that the shipment would bring direct relief to communities facing severe shortages after days of flooding and landslides.



Operation Sagar Bandhu began on November 28, soon after the cyclone hit. Cyclone Ditwah has caused widespread damage across the island, triggering massive floods, landslides, and heavy loss of life. According to the Disaster Management Centre, 627 people have died and 190 remain missing. More than 21 lakh people have been affected, while over 7 lakh families are still struggling to rebuild their lives after losing homes, farms, and belongings.

Many religious sites have also been damaged. Officials reported that more than 760 Buddhist temples, Hindu Kovils, churches, and mosques have been either partly or completely destroyed.

India's support continues on several fronts. The Indian Army's Engineering Task Force is repairing key roads and building a Bailey bridge in Kilinochchi, using parts flown in by the Indian Air Force. India has also set up a field hospital near Kandy, offering surgeries, trauma care, and urgent medical treatment to affected families.

United Nation urges protection of civilians amid Congo conflict

KINSHASA

The United Nations has called on all parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to respect international humanitarian law and protect civilians amid escalating violence in the country's eastern regions. Bruno Lemarquis, the UN humanitarian coordinator in the DRC, warned that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and attacks on schools and other civilian infrastructure must stop immediately.

President Felix Tshisekedi said Monday that rebels from the March 23 Movement (M23) launched an offensive against the Armed Forces of the DRC in South Kivu Province. Recent clashes have occurred in territories including Uvira, Walungu, Mwenga, Shabunda, Kabare, Fizi, and Kalehe, involving heavy weaponry and shelling in densely populated areas.

The escalating violence has claimed at least 74 lives and displaced over 200,000 people since December 2, according to UN statistics. South Kivu already hosted 1.2 million internally displaced persons before the latest fighting. Security conditions in eastern DRC have worsened sharply since January, with the M23 intensifying attacks in North and South Kivu, causing many civilian casualties and widespread displacement.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that food security in the region is rapidly deteriorating. Road blockages have sharply increased the prices of basic staples, with sugar costs rising sixfold and cassava flour more than tripling since January. Burundi's National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons urged immediate support in food, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene.

OCHA emphasized the need for all parties to uphold their obligations under international law and allow safe humanitarian access to deliver life-saving aid.

Cambodia-Thailand border clashes leave six dead

PHNOM PENH

Thai Air Force launched operations to reduce Cambodia's military capacity and protect civilians, while Cambodia monitors the situation, respecting agreements and pursuing peaceful resolutions under international law.

The civilian death toll in the ongoing Cambodia-Thailand border conflict has risen to six, after two more Cambodian civilians were killed early Tuesday, the Cambodian Defence Ministry confirmed. The ministry said Thai forces continued to fire on Cambodian positions and civilians along national roads, causing the latest casualties.

Since early Tuesday, Thai troops have targeted Cambodia's Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey, and Pursat provinces. The renewed violence comes less than two months after the two countries signed a joint peace declaration. Both sides have blamed each other for starting the clashes, which include artillery fire, air strikes, and small arms fire, forcing local residents to evacuate affected areas.

On Monday, the Thai Army reported deploying fighter jets after attacks from Cambodian forces left two Thai soldiers dead and four wounded. Meanwhile, Cambodia said its forces did not return fire and were attacked repeatedly, including at Tamoan Thom temple, 5 Makara, and Chomka Chek areas in Preah Vihear province. Cambodian officials said Thai troops had carried out provocative actions over several days, including an incident in Prorlean Thmar on Sunday.

Thai Air Force spokesperson Jackkrit Thammavichai stated that air operations were launched to reduce Cambodia's military capacity and protect civilians. Cambodian Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt. Gen. Maly Socheata said her country continues to monitor the situation carefully and respects previous agreements while seeking peaceful resolutions under international law.

Cambodia has informed the ASEAN Observer Team about the incidents and plans to request an investigation. Both nations remain on high alert as the conflict continues to escalate along the contested border, raising fears of further casualties.

The tense standoff underscores ongoing border disputes in the region and the challenge of maintaining peace despite recent diplomatic efforts.

Strong quake shakes Japan; fears of bigger tremor

TOKYO

At least 30 people were injured after a strong 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck off the eastern coast of Japan late Monday night, sending tsunami waves up to 70 centimetres high along parts of the Pacific coast. Officials said the quake hit at 11:15 p.m. near Aomori Prefecture at a depth of 54 kilometres, shaking large areas and prompting urgent warnings. Japan's Meteorological Agency cautioned that another quake of equal or stronger magnitude could hit the same region in the coming days. The agency noted that the quake occurred along the trench near Hokkaido and northeastern Japan, an area known for powerful seismic activity as the Pacific Plate moves under the main island of Honshu. The initial estimate of 7.6 magnitude was later revised to 7.5, and authorities briefly warned of possible tsunami waves up to 3 metres. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi urged residents to stay alert and closely follow updates from local officials throughout the week. She advised people to secure furniture and prepare for the possibility of more strong shaking. The highest tsunami wave recorded was 70 centimetres in Iwate Prefecture, and the warning was reduced to an advisory about three and a half hours later before being fully lifted at 6:20 a.m. Tuesday.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

3		8		1	2		6	
	5		8		7		1	3
	7	4		3	6	2		8
6		9		8		1		2
	1		3		4	8		
4		2	1		9		7	
9		1	4		3	6		7
7				9		5		
8	6		2		1		3	9

8	7	9	3	6	2	5	1	4
6	3	1	5	8	4	2	7	9
5	2	4	9	1	7	6	8	3
1	8	7	2	3	6	9	4	5
9	5	6	4	7	8	3	2	1
2	4	3	1	5	9	7	6	8
4	1	5	6	2	3	8	9	7
3	6	8	7	9	1	4	5	2
7	9	2	8	4	5	1	3	6

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

TRAUMA MEETS RELIEF

Freed Nigerian students return amid ongoing captivity

MINNA

A group of 100 schoolchildren abducted last month from St. Mary's Catholic School in Papiri, Niger State, were released over the weekend and welcomed at a government ceremony on late Monday. Many of the children appeared relieved but visibly shaken after weeks in captivity.

At least 303 students, along with 12 teachers, were seized when gunmen attacked the school on November 21. Fifty children escaped shortly after the abduction, but at least 150 students and the teachers remain in captivity. Details surrounding the release of the 100 children have not been made public, and authorities did not confirm whether any ransom was paid.

The freed children arrived in buses escorted by military trucks and were received at the Niger Government House in Minna by officials, who hugged and posed for photos with them. Most of the students, aged between 10 and 17, wore casual clothing, including soccer jerseys and slippers, and were reportedly held in Abuja prior to their release. Niger State Governor Mohammed Bago said health experts would examine the children before reuniting them with their families. "We hope to recover the remaining students who are still in captivity," he said, urging continued prayers for their safe return.

President Bola Tinubu praised security agencies for their work, promising that all abducted students and other kidnapped Nigerians would be rescued. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but local armed gangs targeting schools and travelers for ransom are suspected.

The incident follows a spate of mass abductions across northern Nigeria, including recent attacks in Kebbi and Kwara states. Parents and authorities continue to hope for the safe return of all missing children as the country grapples with its ongoing security crisis.

QUICK READ

Reinvigorating India's ghost shopping centres can unlock Rs 357 crore

New Delhi

Nearly one-fifth of India's operational shopping centres fall into the category of 'ghost malls' and reinvigorating just 15 such centres with 4.8 million square feet space can unlock Rs 357 crore in annual rentals, a report said on Tuesday. These 'ghost malls' are assets marked by high vacancies, weak tenant curation, ageing infrastructure and declining relevance. Across 365 shopping centres, 74 have been classified as ghost assets, representing 15.5 mn sq ft of dormant retail potential. Within this pool, 15 centres with a combined area of 4.8 mn sq ft have been identified as high-potential assets that could deliver as much as Rs 357 crore.

Production of heavy engineering equipment cross Rs 5.69 lakh crore

Mumbai

The production of heavy engineering equipment and various sub sectors of the capital goods sector increased from Rs 2,66,672 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 5,69,900 crore in 2024-25, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Heavy electrical equipment saw a total production worth Rs 3,64,706 crore in 2024-25, up from Rs 167,706 crore in 2020-21, Minister of State for Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, informed the Lok Sabha. While earthmoving and mining machinery saw production worth Rs 80,750 crore in 2024-25 -- up from Rs 29,021 crore in 202-21, printing machinery saw production of Rs 29,716 crore in 2024-25, compared to Rs 10,058 crore in 2020-21, he noted.

Adani Group to invest over $75 bn in energy transition space

Dhanbad

Adani Group will invest over $75 billion in energy transition space over the next five years, said its Chairman Gautam Adani on Tuesday. At the 100th anniversary of the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, the businessman noted that Adani Group has invested to become one of the world's fastest-growing renewable energy companies. Gautam Adani shared that the global green energy transition is emerging as the largest industry of our time, worth several trillion dollars over the coming decades. It will fuel the rise of electricity-based manufacturing, green steel, green fertilisers, hydrogen ecosystems, and the critical infrastructure.

RBI guidelines spare 12 bank groups from restructuring, says Crisil Ratings

Revised RBI rules allowing overlapping lending activities within bank groups prevented significant restructuring for major lenders, Crisil Ratings reported Tuesday.

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India's newly issued guidelines for commercial banks' financial services businesses particularly the provision allowing overlapping lending activities within bank groups have prevented the need for major restructuring by 12 large bank groups, a Crisil Ratings report said on Tuesday.

According to the report, the final framework seeks to eliminate regulatory arbitrage by harmonising rules across all entities within a banking group. This alignment is expected to strengthen the financial system structurally while offering institutions greater flexibility in conducting business. Collectively, the 12 bank groups represent about 55 per cent of total sectoral advances.

The earlier draft guidelines released in October 2024 had proposed restricting each banking group to a single entity for any specific line of business, prohibiting overlap in lending functions between a bank and its affiliated entities. Had the draft been implemented without modification, the report notes, several major lenders would have faced significant operational changes.

The RBI has, however, retained key elements from the draft, including the extension of upper-layer scale-based regulations to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), restrictions on certain categories of loans and advances, and an upper limit of 20 per cent on a bank group's shareholding in an asset reconstruction company (ARC).

Crisil Ratings Director Subha Sri Narayanan said that implementing the draft in its original form would have required restructuring across 12 bank groups, with an estimated impact of 2–6 per cent on the consolidated advances of individual banks. However, with the final guidelines permitting bank group entities to maintain overlapping lending businesses, subject to Board approval, there will be no disruption to their operations.

India Records Highest-Ever Half-Year Exports in FY 2025–26, Parliament Told

India's export sector showed strong resilience and global competitiveness, achieving record quarterly and half-year performance despite global uncertainties.

MUMBAI

India's export sector has conveyed a strong message of resilience and global competitiveness in FY 2025–26, achieving its highest-ever quarterly exports in both Q1 and Q2 even as global markets continue to face uncertainty, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, said overall exports for April to September 2025 reached $418.6 billion, up from $395.7 billion in the same period last year. This represents a 5.8 per cent growth, marking India's strongest half-year export performance on record.

The Commerce Ministry noted that India's export momentum remains steady despite a temporary dip in October 2025. Exports in that month were slightly lower due to an unusually high base in October 2024, which remains the best October export performance to date.

Prasada emphasised that India's export strategy is anchored in credibility, resilience, and proactive global outreach. He highlighted that high-level diplomatic engagements and ongoing negotiations with key partner nations continue to strengthen trade relationships and deliver long-term economic benefits, even when short-term variations appear.

The minister stated that India's export ecosystem has been significantly strengthened by structural reforms, improved logistics, expanded port capacity, and focused export facilitation measures. He added that Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have enhanced manufacturing competitiveness, while the services sector continues to act as a strong driver of India's external trade performance.

On trade agreements, the government informed Parliament that five major Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have been finalised in the past five years. These include agreements with Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and the India–UK trade pact, which will come into effect following ratification.

Rural Development Ministry cleared 25 new Tripura road projects to strengthen connectivity and improve access in remote tribal regions.

Centre Approves 25 New Road Projects in Tripura Under PM-JANMAN Scheme

TRIPURA

The Ministry of Rural Development on Tuesday approved 25 new road projects in Tripura under the Road Connectivity component of the PM-JANMAN scheme. The projects span 65.38 kilometres and will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹68.67 crore, marking a significant boost to infrastructure in some of the state's most remote tribal areas.

In an official statement, the ministry said, The Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned 25 road projects measuring 65.38 km length under the Road Connectivity component of PM-JANMAN, with an estimated investment of ₹68.67 crore for Tripura.

According to the ministry, the new roads will offer all-weather connectivity to 30 habitations belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The improved road network is expected to make travel easier and safer year-round, bringing substantial relief to communities that often face isolation during difficult weather conditions.

The ministry added that the initiative will enhance connectivity in rural areas, bridging the gap between remote villages and urban centres. By linking isolated habitations to nearby towns, the project aims to strengthen rural mobility and promote more inclusive development.

Officials believe that better transport infrastructure will stimulate local economic activity, help small-scale trade grow, and generate new employment opportunities for residents of these regions. Improved connectivity is also expected to make essential services more accessible.

With upgraded roads, people in tribal and rural areas will find it easier to reach hospitals, schools, and local markets, supporting better health outcomes, improved educational access, and higher income prospects. The government expects the initiative to significantly enhance the quality of life for vulnerable tribal communities across Tripura.

India shows strong hiring growth for Q1 2026

NEW DELHI

Indian employers report an extremely strong job market in India in the first quarter of 2026, with organisations increasingly willing to invest in skills, technology, and talent, a report said on Tuesday.

The report by ManpowerGroup India, based on a survey of 3,051 employers across India during October 2025, revealed a Net Employment Outlook (NEO) of 52 per cent, underscoring a strategic shift toward quality over volume. The report noted that a faster-than-expected growth rate of the Indian economy is due to a favourable monsoon that drove rural demand and lower oil prices, minimal impact of the US tariffs, and reforms in the banking sector, which enabled easier access to foreign loans, supporting company growth and job creation.

Meanwhile, efforts have been ramped up to internalise the Indian rupee for cross-border trade, aiming to decrease dependence on US dollars, which will ultimately benefit the economy in the long term.

Given these metrics, Indian employers' hiring sentiment looks optimistic for the near term, stated the report.

India's hiring outlook is not just strong - it is signaling a new phase of economic confidence and capability-building. What these trends truly reflect is India's transition from volume-led hiring to value creation: organisations are investing in the skills, technologies, and talent architectures that will define their competitiveness over the next decade, said Sandeep Gulati, Managing Director, ManpowerGroup India and Middle East.

The report noted a demand in sectors such as finance, professional services, manufacturing, and real estate, indicative of employers actively preparing for a more digital, regulated, and innovation-driven economy, Gulati said.

As we move into 2026, India will shape its talent market around three fundamentals: critical skills, technological leverage, and purposeful expansion, said Gulati. Further, the report noted that Indian employers in all nine sectors anticipate increasing staffing levels in Q1 2026.

Cement makers set for 2.5–3.5 pc profit boost driven by volume growth

MUMBAI

Cement manufacturers' profitability will rise about 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent this fiscal year due to improved realisations driven by higher volumes and premiumisation amid steady selling prices and cost of inputs, a report said on Tuesday.

Though the goods and services tax from 28 per cent to 18 per cent is expected to weigh on retail prices, the premiumisation and higher demand will offset the pressure and improve profitability for the manufacturers, the report from Crisil Intelligence said.

Cement volumes are seen rising 6.5–7.5 per cent year on year after a 5 per cent growth last fiscal, with a moderate 5 per cent growth in the first half and a projected 8–9 per cent surge in the second half fuelled by pent-up demand and better liquidity.

The firm projected that average pan India prices will remain rangebound at Rs 354–359 per 50 kg bag, based on analysis of 14 major manufacturers that account for about 85 per cent of industry revenue.

The average pan India cement prices saw a modest 3 per cent on year increase during the first half, Sehul Bhatt, Director, Crisil Intelligence.

However, we anticipate the full impact of the GST reform will be realised in the third quarter, leading to a 4-5 per cent decline in retail prices in the second half of the fiscal. Despite subdued pricing, the industry is poised for higher realisations this fiscal, driven by healthy volume growth, Bhatt added.

Excluding GST, cement prices are expected to rise 3-4 per cent on-year in the coming quarter. However, the reduction in GST is expected to lead to a decline in overall prices, it said.

The manufacturers saw a 5 per cent increase in realisations in the first half of this fiscal. The momentum is expected to slow in the second half, with realisations growing a modest 0-2 per cent.

India recommends AI firms pay creators royalties set by govt panel

MUMBAI

The Centre has proposed a major new framework for AI training that would require all AI companies to obtain a mandatory blanket licence and pay royalties for using copyrighted works created by musicians, authors, news publishers, and other creators. The royalty rates would be set by a government-appointed committee and collected through a single collective body formed by copyright holders.

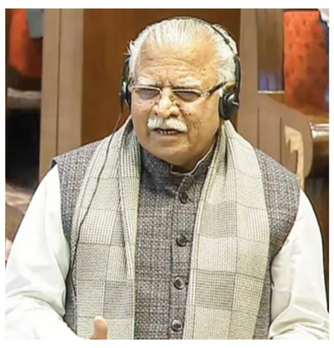
The proposal, outlined in a working paper titled 'One Nation, One License, One Payment: Balancing AI Innovation and Copyright,' rejects voluntary licensing agreements such as the deal between OpenAI and the Associated Press. The paper argues that voluntary deals create high transaction costs, long negotiations, and unequal bargaining power, ultimately disadvantaging small creators and startups while failing to provide broad and reliable access to training data. If adopted, India would become the only country to implement a statutory licensing regime specifically for AI developers.

A committee member said the goal is to ensure equitable compensation and prevent large players on either side from dominating royalties. The recommendations also seek to guarantee non-discriminatory access to copyrighted material for AI companies.

PMAY HOUSES DELIVERED

Centre Hands Over 95.54 Lakh Houses Under PMAY Schemes, Minister Tells Parliament

NEW DELHI



The Centre has handed over 95.54 lakh houses to beneficiaries under the two schemes of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal told Parliament on Tuesday.

Responding to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha during Question Hour, the minister cited a 2020 nationwide slum survey, which revealed that 6.5 crore people, representing 1.39 crore households, were living in slums across India. He clarified that land and colonisation fall under State jurisdiction; therefore, policies and programmes for slum rehabilitation rest with individual States and Union Territories. As a result, the Ministry does not maintain centralised data on slum rehabilitation or relocation.

In the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD), slum rehabilitation and demolitions are undertaken by land-owning agencies such as the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) under relevant laws. Detailing DDA's rehabilitation efforts, the minister stated that as part of its Slum Rehabilitation Programme, the authority conducted demolitions only after ensuring proper rehabilitation of eligible households. Out of 5,158 households, 3,414 were assessed as eligible for alternative accommodation under DUSIB policy.

These eligible families have been provided housing equipped with modern facilities. The minister added that implementing agencies undertake rehabilitation projects based on their respective land management guidelines and the slum rehabilitation frameworks of States and UTs.

During rehabilitation and resettlement processes, land-owning and implementing agencies—as well as affected families—may seek assistance under PMAY-Urban (PMAY-U) and PMAY-U 2.0, provided they meet eligibility criteria. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been supporting States and UTs by offering central assistance under PMAY-U since June 25, 2015, for constructing homes for eligible urban families, including slum dwellers.

Highlighting new reforms, Manohar Lal said the government has revamped its urban housing mission, launching PMAY-U 2.0 'Housing for All' on September 1, 2024.

From Airpocalypse to Clean Air: Beijing's Remarkable Transformation

In January 2013, residents of Beijing woke up to a nightmare. The sky had turned a thick, ashen gray, visibility dropped to mere meters, and the air carried a metallic taste that stung the throat. Fine particulate matter levels reached 22 times the World Health Organization's recommended safe limit. This crisis, dubbed the Airpocalypse, marked a turning point in China's environmental history. Today, just over a decade later, Beijing stands as a testament to what determined government action and public engagement can achieve in combating air pollution.

The Dark Days: 2013 and the Crisis That Changed Everything

The winter of 2013 was Beijing's environmental nadir. At one point in mid-January, the Air Quality Index soared to 993, far beyond levels health officials deemed extremely dangerous. For context, an AQI above 300 is considered hazardous; Beijing's readings were off the charts. Throughout 2013, air pollution levels averaged 100 micrograms per cubic meter, 10 times higher than the World Health Organization's recommended level of 10 micrograms per cubic meter. The crisis wasn't just about uncomfortable days or reduced visibility. The human toll was staggering. Children's hospitals overflowed with patients suffering from respiratory ailments, and researchers estimated that 8,500 premature deaths linked to pollution occurred in four Chinese cities, including Beijing. The severity of the pollution forced residents to take extraordinary measures. Families barricaded themselves indoors with air purifiers running continuously. Those who ventured outside wore elaborate masks that became as essential as clothing. Schools closed, flights were grounded, and the very fabric of daily life was disrupted by the toxic air that enveloped the city. What made this crisis particularly notable was the convergence of multiple factors. Coal burning for winter heating, emissions from five million motor vehicles, industrial pollution from surrounding provinces, and stagnant weather conditions combined to create a perfect storm of contamination.

The Awakening: Public Pressure and Govt Response

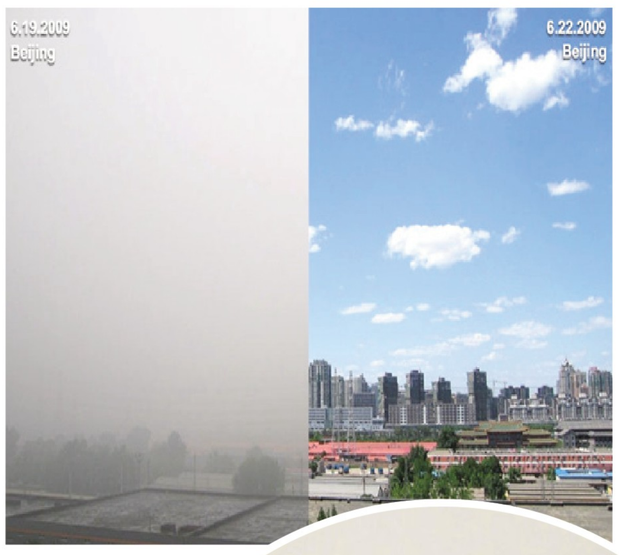
The 2013 Airpocalypse catalyzed a fundamental shift in how China approached air pollution. For years, the government had been reluctant to acknowledge the severity of the problem. However, the crisis of 2013 changed everything. Social media platforms buzzed with images of the smog-choked city, and international attention focused on Beijing's environmental catastrophe. A key factor in driving change was transparency. The U.S. Embassy in Beijing had been operating its own pollution monitor and publishing hourly readings on Twitter. Citizens noticed large discrepancies between official Chinese figures and U.S. measurements, which sparked public outcry and demanded accountability. In response, the Chinese government began publishing real-time Air Quality Index data for 74 cities across the country. This transparency was revolutionary. For the first time, citizens could quantify what they were breathing and hold authorities accountable for improvements. The term PM2.5 entered everyday vocabulary, and public awareness of air pollution reached unprecedented levels. The government's response was comprehensive and ambitious. In September 2013, Beijing launched the Clean Air Action Plan 2013-2017, a five-year blueprint that would fundamentally reshape the city's approach to pollution control. The plan set clear targets and mobilized resources on an unprecedented scale.

Regional Coordination: A Collaborative Approach

One crucial lesson from Beijing's experience was that air pollution doesn't respect city boundaries. Pollutants from surrounding provinces, particularly industrialized Hebei, drifted into Beijing, meaning that local measures alone would never be sufficient. Beijing pioneered regional air quality coordination in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. Air quality work was supported by comprehensive legal standards, strict environmental law enforcement, economic policies, public participation, and coordination on air pollution prevention and control in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. This collaborative approach ensured that all provinces in the region worked toward common air quality goals.

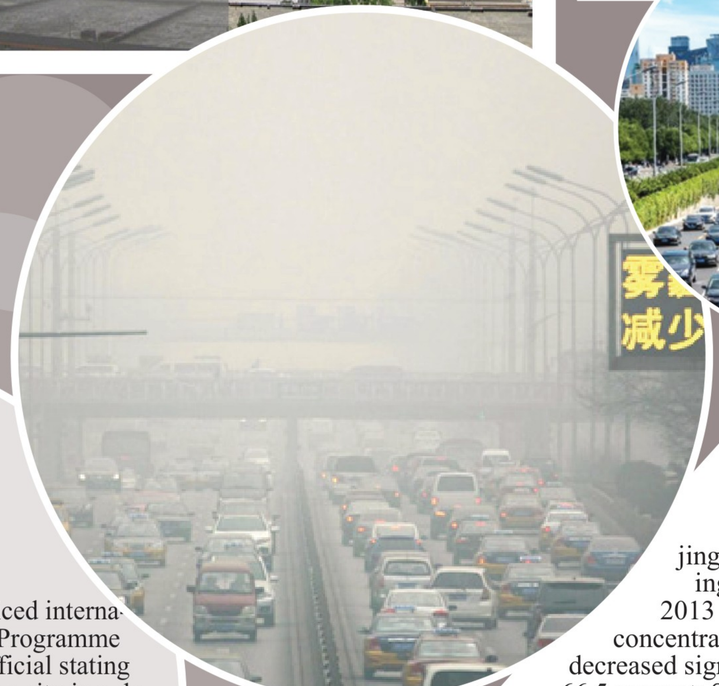
Coal: The Primary Target

Coal combustion was identified as the single largest contributor to Beijing's air pollution, responsible for approximately 50 percent of the city's contamination. The government launched an aggressive campaign to eliminate coal use within the city. Coal-fired power plants and boilers were eliminated, and all gas-fired boilers in the core city area were renovated or dismantled. The transformation extended to residential heating. Traditional coal-burning stoves in homes were replaced with cleaner alternatives, including natural gas and electric heating systems. This transition wasn't just about technology—it required massive infrastructure investment and careful planning to ensure residents could stay warm during Beijing's harsh winters without relying on coal.



Transportation: Greening the Streets

With five million vehicles on the roads, transportation emissions represented another major pollution source. Beijing implemented a comprehensive strategy to reduce vehicle emissions and promote cleaner alternatives. The city introduced strict vehicle emission standards and eliminated more than 2 million high- emission vehicles since 2013. Old, polluting cars were taken off the roads through buyback programs and regulatory measures. New vehicles had to meet increasingly stringent emission standards before they could be registered. Perhaps most dramatically, Beijing embraced electric mobility. The city deployed thousands of electric buses, becoming part of a broader Chinese push toward electric public transportation. By 2025, the government aimed for electric and new energy vehicles to comprise half of all registered vehicles in the city.



Recognition and Lessons for the World

Beijing's transformation hasn't gone unnoticed internationally. The United Nations Environment Programme praised the city's achievements, with one official stating that Beijing's success demonstrates how a large city in a developing country can balance environmental protection and economic growth. The city's approach offers valuable lessons for other cities worldwide struggling with air pollution. First, comprehensive action is essential—addressing just one source of pollution while ignoring others won't produce meaningful results. Second, political will and substantial financial investment are non-negotiable. Third, transparency and public engagement drive accountability and support for difficult policy measures.

Industry: Restructuring and Relocation

Industrial emissions from heavy industries such as steel, cement, and glass manufacturing—particularly from Hebei province surrounding Beijing—contributed significantly to the pollution problem. Addressing this required both local action and regional coordination. Beijing closed nearly 2,000 factories within the city limits, particularly those engaged in heavy, polluting industries. Many factories were relocated to areas outside Beijing, though this strategy drew criticism for simply shifting pollution rather than eliminating it. More importantly, remaining industries were required to adopt cleaner production methods and install pollution control equipment. The government also implemented emergency measures during periods of particularly bad air quality. Construction sites could be shut down, and factories temporarily closed when pollution forecasts indicated hazardous conditions.

The Results: A Remarkable Turnaround

The transformation of Beijing's air quality has been nothing short of remarkable. From 2013 to 2022, the annual average concentrations of major air pollutants decreased significantly: PM2.5 decreased 66.5 percent; SO2 decreased 88.7 percent; NO2 decreased 58.9 percent; and PM10 decreased 50 percent. In concrete terms, in the 12 months to the end of March 2025, average PM2.5 concentrations had fallen to 29.1 micrograms per cubic meter, translating into a 67 percent decline since 2013. The city that once recorded AQI readings of 993 now regularly experiences days with readings below 50, classified as good air quality. The number of days with good air quality reached 290 in 2024, an increase of 114 days compared with 2013 and the highest number on record. This means that residents now breathe clean air on more than three-quarters of the year's days—a dramatic shift from the situation just a decade ago.

Conclusion: From Worst to World-Class

Beijing's journey from the Airpocalypse of 2013 to one of the most improved major cities in terms of air quality stands as one of the most significant environmental success stories of the 21st century. The transformation required confronting powerful economic interests, investing billions of dollars, implementing hundreds of policies, and fundamentally changing how millions of people heat their homes, travel to work, and power their industries. The success wasn't inevitable. It required sustained political commitment, public pressure, scientific expertise, regional cooperation, and willingness to prioritize long-term environmental health over short-term economic convenience. Beijing's experience demonstrates that even the most severe air pollution problems can be addressed when governments act decisively and comprehensively. While challenges remain and the work is far from complete, Beijing has proved that transformation is possible. The city that once symbolized the environmental costs of rapid development has become a model for how determined action can restore breathable air.

Messi, Suarez to Reunite in Mumbai for Charity Fashion Show, Auction

Argentine football icons to walk ramp and auction 2022 World Cup memorabilia

MUMBAI

Lionel Messi will reunite with longtime strike partner Luis Suarez and teammate Rodrigo De Paul in Mumbai on December 14 for a 45-minute philanthropic fashion segment during his 'G.O.A.T. India Tour 2025'. Organisers have requested Messi to bring select memorabilia from Argentina's 2022 World Cup triumph for auction, aiming to raise funds for charity.

The Mumbai event, hosted at Wankhede Stadium from 5pm, will feature celebrity models, Bollywood stars including Tiger Shroff and Jackie Shroff, cricketers, and business leaders. A Padel Cup at the Cricket Club of India at 3.30pm will precede the fashion show. Suarez will also perform in a Spanish music segment.

Messi's India tour spans multiple cities. In Kolkata, security concerns have shifted the unveiling of his 70-foot statue to a virtual ceremony from his hotel. A 25ft x 20ft mural will also be unveiled during the Durga Puja season, allowing fans to leave personal messages. The Kolkata leg is expected to draw over 70,000 spectators.

Hyderabad will host the GOAT Cup at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, featuring a 7v7 celebrity match, penalty shootouts, a masterclass for scouted youth, and a musical concert. The New Delhi leg includes a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and felicitations for Minerva Academy's U-14 and U-15 squads, which won three major European youth titles this year.

This marks Messi's first India visit since 2011. Organisers confirmed that the tour received final approval in August after meetings with Messi and his father, Jorge, who is also his agent. The India tour combines football, culture, and philanthropy, promising fans a unique experience while supporting charitable causes.

Bruno Fernandes Stars as Manchester United Thrash Wolves 4-1

WOLVERHAMPTON

Two-goal Fernandes inspires dominant United win, moving them into top six

Bruno Fernandes scored twice and set up another as Manchester United cruised to a 4-1 victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers in a Premier League clash on Monday, lifting United into the top six.

Fernandes opened the scoring in the first half after a Wolves error from Brazilian midfielder Andre, rifling the ball past goalkeeper Sam Johnstone despite losing his footing. Wolves briefly equalized just before halftime when Jean-Ricner Bellegarde converted a volley from David Moller Wolfe's cross, marking Wolves' first league goal since October 26.

United regained control early in the second half, with Bryan Mbeumo finishing a swift counter-attack in the 51st minute. Mason Mount then added a third in the 62nd minute, expertly converting a chipped assist from Fernandes. The match was sealed when Fernandes scored a penalty in the 82nd minute to complete his double and the team's fourth goal. The win moves United to 25 points, level with Chelsea in fifth, while Wolves remain at the bottom with just two points, suffering their eighth consecutive defeat. Wolves coach Rob Edwards admitted frustration: "There's a nervousness… in big moments we gave the ball back to them. We're getting punished and must improve, but it won't be a quick turnaround."

United's second-half performance showcased a more ruthless attacking approach after a sluggish first half. Mount reflected, "The onus was on us to put things right with a proper performance. All our focus was on being ruthless, going forward with purpose, and taking our chances. It's good to push up and get the three points, but we can't stop now."

The victory highlighted Fernandes' influence and United's ability to dominate even amid a season of inconsistency, while Wolves continue to struggle at the bottom of the table.

Bellevision, Konkans Dubai to host 'The Winter Smash 2025' women's throwball tournament

UDUPI

Bellevision & Konkans Dubai
Jointly Organizes
THE WINTER SMASH 2025
"Feel the chill,play with thrill"
WOMEN'S THROWBALL TOURNAMENT
SUNDAY 14th DEC. @8:30 AM
GROUND:ST.LAWRENCE ENG.MEDIUM SCHOOL,MOODUBELLE
*This tournament is exclusively for Roman Catholic teams under the Udupi & Mangalore Dioceses.
*Only 10 teams will be allowed to participate,strictly on a first come,first serve basis.
*No entry fees will be charged for participating team
*Each team must consist of 9 players +3 substitutes
*Matches will be conducted in a league format
*The umpire's decision is final and must be respected at all times.
*All teams must strictly follow the official Throwball rules and guidelines
*Wearing the team jersey is mandatory for all players.
PRIZES
1rst Prizes ₹ 12,000 & Trophy
2nd Prizes ₹ 9,000 & Trophy
3rd Prizes ₹ 6,000 & Trophy
Player of the Match,Best Attacker & Best Defender:Rs.2,500 ach & Trophy
REGISTER NOW
98446 72727
99013 78050
63602 32623

Bellevision and Konkans Dubai jointly organizes 'The Winter Smash 2025', an exciting women's throwball tournament set to take place on Sunday, December 14, at 8.30 am. The event will be hosted at the grounds of St Lawrence English Medium School, Moodubelle.

With the tagline 'Feel the chill, play with thrill', the tournament aims to bring Roman Catholic women's teams from across the Udupi and Mangalore dioceses onto one platform to showcase their sporting talent, teamwork, and competitive spirit.

The organizers have announced that participation will be limited to 10 teams, strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. In a gesture promoting community sports, no entry fee will be charged. Each team is required to field 9 players and 3 substitutes, and all matches will follow a league format.

Officials emphasized that teams must strictly adhere to official Throwball rules and respect the umpire's decisions, which will be final. Wearing a team jersey is mandatory for all participants to ensure uniformity and discipline on the field.

Attractive prizes have been announced for the winners. The champions will take home Rs 12,000 and a trophy, while the runners-up will receive Rs 9,000 and a trophy. The third-place team will be awarded Rs 6,000 and a trophy.

Individual excellence will also be recognized with trophies and a cash prize of Rs 2,500 each for player of the match, best attacker, and best defender.

Yves Bissouma Faces Spurs Probe Again Over Nitrous Oxide Incident

LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Yves Bissouma is once again under scrutiny after footage emerged showing him inhaling nitrous oxide at a London party, prompting the club to launch a formal internal investigation. The 29-year-old Malian's latest indiscretion comes nearly a year after a similar incident that led to a one-match suspension for "severe lack of judgment."

The clip, reportedly filmed in the early hours of November 3, was shared by a woman who attended the party. She allegedly said, "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Bissouma was openly inhaling from the balloon even though he had been in trouble before for doing this."

Adding to concerns, Bissouma has removed all mentions of Tottenham from his Instagram profile, raising alarm among fans already uneasy about his inconsistent tenure at the club. Under UK law, nitrous oxide has been classified as a Class C drug since 2023, making recreational possession illegal. This latest controversy comes on the back of a disrupted season for Bissouma, who was previously dropped for repeated lateness in August and missed further matches due to ankle surgery in October.

Squash Confident as WSF Pushes 2032 Olympic Bid

CHENNAI

World Squash Federation (WSF) president Zena Wooldridge has confirmed that the process to include squash in the 2032 Brisbane Olympics is already underway, building on the sport's historic inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. Speaking during the Squash World Cup opening ceremony, Wooldridge expressed confidence that squash's flexibility and low logistical footprint strengthen its case for Olympic continuity.

"We've already started the process for Brisbane 2032," Wooldridge said, noting that a decision is expected by mid-2026. She highlighted that while Los Angeles offered ideal facilities, Brisbane presents unique challenges, making adaptability crucial. The WSF plans to showcase squash's versatility, from singles to doubles and glass courts, to fit host constraints.

Wooldridge emphasized India's role in the sport's growth. "India is a major squash nation, influential as hosts, players, and referees. Their participation ensures broadcast coverage and supports milestones like the 2030 Ahmedabad Commonwealth Games, which will boost India's Olympic ambitions."

Reflecting on her five-year tenure, Wooldridge credited collaborative efforts with PSA, US Squash, and Squash Australia for strengthening governance and modernizing championships. She also outlined expansion plans in Africa, leveraging Olympic solidarity funding to develop players, coaches, and referees, with a focus on training more female coaches and players.

On engaging with the newly elected IOC president Kirsty Coventry, Wooldridge noted, "We hope to meet in the first quarter of next year. With her reviewing existing sports and disciplines, it may become easier for squash to secure its place." Wooldridge concluded that squash's combination of global growth, governance improvements, and flexible competition formats positions it strongly to remain an Olympic sport beyond 2028, as the WSF works steadily to secure Brisbane inclusion.

Isack Hadjar Kicks Off Red Bull Career with First 2026 Test Laps

ABU DHABI

Isack Hadjar officially began his Red Bull Racing career on Tuesday, taking part in post-season testing in Abu Dhabi. The 21-year-old Frenchman, promoted from Red Bull's junior program after a breakout rookie F1 season, took the RB mule car equipped with 2026-spec adaptations for its first spin. Pirelli used the outing to gather early data for next year's tyres. Though Hadjar has previously appeared in three FP1 sessions during the 2023 and 2024 seasons, this marked his first full outing as a senior Red Bull driver. His rookie year included consistent performances, highlighted by a maiden podium finish at the Dutch Grand Prix alongside future teammate Max Verstappen. That result, coupled with his overall promise, cemented his place as a natural choice for the 2026 lineup following Yuki Tsunoda's struggles.

Liverpool coach Arne Slot says his bond with Mohamed Salah is not broken

Liverpool Boss Slot Insists Relationship with Salah Remains Intact

MILAN

Liverpool manager Arne Slot has dismissed suggestions that his relationship with star forward Mohamed Salah has collapsed, following the Egypt international's absence from the squad for the Champions League trip to Inter Milan.

"That's not the way I feel, but he has the right to feel how he feels," Slot told supporters. "I haven't felt that at all." Salah had trained with the first team earlier but was left out of the Italy trip after publicly stating he felt "thrown under the bus" and claimed his relationship with Slot was over.

The comments came after Salah was benched for the third consecutive Premier League match in a 3-3 draw against Leeds United. Asked if Salah had played his last game for Liverpool, Slot said, "I have no clue. I cannot answer that question at this moment in time." He added that while Salah can feel however he wishes, he does not have the right to broadcast grievances to the media. Liverpool are enduring a difficult season, sitting ninth in the Premier League with just four wins in 15 matches. In Europe, the Reds are 13th in their Champions League group after a 4-1 defeat at home to PSV Eindhoven. Salah, Liverpool's all-time leading paid player, has scored four goals in 13 league games this season, a stark drop from his usual prolific form.

Despite the turbulence, Slot emphasized the professional nature of his bond with Salah, who has been instrumental in Liverpool's two Premier League titles and a Champions League triumph since joining from Roma in 2017. The coach's remarks suggest he remains committed to managing the situation carefully amid ongoing speculation about Salah's future at Anfield.

Pooja Tomar Aims to Guide India's Next Fighters with MMA Academy

NEW DELHI

Pooja Tomar, the first Indian woman to win a UFC fight, is turning her focus from personal milestones to shaping the next generation of fighters. Growing up in Budhana, Uttar Pradesh, she faced limited resources, no mentors, and no training structure, navigating her path into MMA largely alone.

"My only goal right now is to open my own academy so the coming generation gets proper opportunities," Tomar told. "We didn't know anything when we started. I can now guide many people so they can achieve things faster." Her journey, spanning wushu, regional MMA promotions, ONE Championship, and Matrix Fight Night, culminated in her UFC debut in 2023 and a historic win in June 2024. This achievement highlighted both her resilience and the gaps in India's MMA ecosystem, which she is determined to address.

Tomar plans her academy to offer structured training, nutrition guidance, mental conditioning, and international-standard coaching. Her vision is to create a clear pathway for young fighters — particularly girls — so they no longer struggle with the uncertainties she faced.

"When I was young, the birth of a girl in my village often brought sadness," she recalls. "From that time, I wanted to prove that I am no less than any boy. That's when my interest in fighting began, and UFC became my dream."

By sharing her experience and providing proper infrastructure, Tomar hopes to ensure that talent and perseverance are enough for young athletes to reach global stages.

Mohammed Shami Signals National Comeback with Four-Wicket Blast in SMAT

NEW DELHI

India pacer Mohammed Shami sent a clear message to the national selectors with a scintillating four-wicket haul against Haryana in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2025–26. The Bengal fast bowler returned figures of 4/30 in four overs, helping restrict Haryana to 191/9 in their 20 overs.

This was Shami's third consecutive performance taking three or more wickets in the tournament. He had earlier claimed 4/13 against Services and 3/24 versus Puducherry. His consistent show has propelled him to the third spot among the tournament's highest wicket-takers, highlighting his sustained domestic dominance despite being overlooked by India's selectors.

Shami has amassed 16 wickets in seven matches, averaging 14.93 with an economy rate of 8.90. His best figures of 4/13 reflect a bowler in top form, both physically and technically. Yet, the 33-year-old remains sidelined, having last represented India in the Champions Trophy 2025, with his last Test outing coming during the World Test Championship final 2023, where India fell short against Australia.

Selectors had previously cited fitness concerns for his omission from the England tour. However, Shami has been active in domestic cricket, including the Duleep Trophy and Ranji Trophy, taking 20 wickets in four Ranji matches, demonstrating both fitness and form.

Despite Bengal losing their second successive match in the tournament, Shami's performances underline his readiness for international duties. His ongoing excellence in domestic cricket reinforces calls for his reintegration into India's pace attack. Shami's determination and consistent displays are hard to ignore, and he continues to push for the opportunity to return to the national team.

IPL 2026 Auction List Finalised with 350 Players

A star-studded pool of 350 players headlines the high-stakes IPL 2026 auction

MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League on Tuesday confirmed a final shortlist of 350 players, including 240 Indians and 110 overseas cricketers, for the 2026 auction scheduled in Abu Dhabi on December 16. Among the notable inclusions is South Africa's wicketkeeper-batter Quinton de Kock, a late entrant to the pool after reversing his ODI retirement. He will enter the auction at a base price of ₹1 crore.

The initial registration of 1,390 players was trimmed to 1,005, before being finalised at 350 competing for 77 available slots across the 10 franchises in the league's 19th edition.

Australia's former captain Steve Smith, returning to the IPL fold after last appearing in 2021, is listed with a ₹2 crore base price. The first set of auction names also includes Mumbai batters Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan, each placed at a ₹75 lakh base price.

Several high-profile overseas stars feature in the top bracket at ₹2 crore, including Australia's Cameron Green and Jake Fraser-McGurk, New Zealand's Devon Conway, and South Africa's David Miller. India all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer, released by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), has also set his base price at ₹2 crore.

Among the franchises, KKR enter the auction with the largest purse of ₹64.3 crore, giving them significant room for rebuilding. Chennai Super Kings follow with ₹43.4 crore, while Sunrisers Hyderabad hold the third-largest purse at ₹25.5 crore.

With a heavily stacked roster of capped and emerging talent, the 2026 auction promises fierce bidding, strategic manoeuvring, and potential blockbuster signings as teams aim to reshape their squads for another thrilling IPL season.

IPL 2026 Auction: Sarfaraz Khan, Prithvi Shaw Named in Opening Set

MUMBAI

The build-up to the IPL 2026 Player Auction, scheduled for December 16 in Abu Dhabi, gathered momentum on Tuesday with Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw featuring prominently in the opening set of players released by the league. The pair, who went unsold in last year's mega auction, headline the capped batters' group this time with a base price of ₹75 lakh each.

Sarfaraz, despite an encouraging start to his Test career, did not attract any bids in the previous auction. Shaw, dropped by Mumbai midway through the last domestic season, revived his fortunes after moving to Maharashtra, where consistency and improved fitness helped restore his reputation. Their inclusion in the first set signals renewed interest ahead of a highly competitive auction.

They are grouped alongside top overseas names such as Devon Conway, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, and David Miller, each listed at the ₹2 crore base price. Notably, Green—usually classified as an all-rounder—has been listed only as a batter this year. The IPL authorities released the final list of 350 players on Tuesday morning, comprising 240 Indians and 110 overseas cricketers, from whom a maximum of 77 signings can be made. The auction pool features 40 players in the highest base price bracket of ₹2 crore, while 227 uncapped domestic players have set their base price at ₹30 lakh, the lowest available tier.

Sarfaraz, after a promising start to his Test career, failed to draw bids in the previous auction

The second set of players includes Venkatesh Iyer (₹2 crore), the high-profile all-rounder released by Kolkata Knight Riders, along with Deepak Hooda (₹75 lakh) and five prominent overseas all-rounders. With major names, intriguing comeback stories and limited slots, the 2026 auction promises intense bidding wars and strategic gambles from all ten franchises.

Tiger Woods Sparks Career-Change Buzz with Cameo

NASSAU

A surprise stint behind the microphone by Tiger Woods at the Hero World Challenge has ignited speculation that the 15-time major champion may be eyeing a new path in sports broadcasting. Woods, 49, who has spent much of the past decade battling injuries in his effort to stay competitive, stunned viewers when he joined the Golf Channel commentary booth for an impromptu segment with fellow professional Kevin Kisner.

The cameo, filled with jokes and easy banter, showcased a relaxed and humorous side of Woods rarely seen during his peak playing years. Clips of the exchange quickly went viral, with fans calling him "comedy gold" and praising his potential as an "awesome broadcaster." The moment has prompted widespread speculation about whether Woods is quietly preparing for a media career once his playing days wind down.

THERE IS NO OTHER PLAYER LIKE HARDIK PANDYA IN INDIAN T20 TEAM: BANGAR

NEW DELHI

Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar has lauded Hardik Pandya as a once-in-a-generation all-rounder, insisting that no player in India's current T20 setup matches his dual-impact presence. Pandya, recovering from a quadricep injury suffered during the Asia Cup, is set to return for the five-match ODI series against South Africa beginning Tuesday in Cuttack.

Bangar stressed that Pandya's skill set places him in a category of his own. Comparing him with global all-rounders like Ben Stokes and drawing parallels with Ravindra Jadeja's irreplaceability in longer formats, Bangar said Pandya could command a place either as a pure batter or a frontline seamer. "To be that kind of all-rounder, you must earn your place with both bat and ball. There is no other player like Hardik Pandya in the Indian team," he said.

On workload management, Bangar suggested Pandya should feature in at least the first three matches against South Africa to assess his physical readiness. He cautioned against drawing conclusions about playing six or seven T20Is before the World Cup, noting the gap in intensity between domestic tournaments like the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) and international cricket. A fully fit Pandya, he added, provides India with their ideal team balance, particularly with the available spin options.

Before his India return, Pandya struck an unbeaten 77 off 42 balls for Baroda in SMAT and bowled four overs at full throttle. India skipper Shubman Gill also returns after a neck spasm. Bangar believes Gill's growth as Test captain has strengthened his mindset across formats, making him a solid T20I top-order option.

Hazlewood Ruled Out of Ashes; Cummins Set for Australia Return

BRISBANE

Australia's Ashes campaign suffered a significant setback on Tuesday with pace bowler Josh Hazlewood officially ruled out of the remainder of the five-match series due to hamstring and Achilles injuries. Hazlewood, who missed Australia's commanding eight-wicket wins in Perth and Brisbane, had initially been expected to return later in the contest.

Coach Andrew McDonald confirmed that the veteran seamer will now shift focus to regaining fitness ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup early next year. "He'll be out of the series and his preparation will shift toward the World Cup, which is an incredibly important campaign for us," McDonald said, calling the development "really flat" for the team after unexpected setbacks hampered Hazlewood's recovery. A pillar of Australia's attack for nearly a decade, his absence leaves a sizeable void.

In more encouraging news for Australia, skipper Pat Cummins is set to return for the third Test in Adelaide starting December 17. Cummins, who missed the first two Tests while recovering from a back problem, has steadily increased his training workload at Allan Border Field during the second Test. According to McDonald, Cummins appears physically and technically prepared, with selectors expected to reinstate him as captain when the squad is announced on Wednesday. Vice-captain Steve Smith has been leading the side in his absence.

India regroup after semifinal loss, eyeing podium finish today

Heartbroken India Target Bronze as Junior WC Campaign Nears End

CHENNAI

The dream of reclaiming the FIH Men's Junior World Cup may have slipped away, but hosts India will aim to salvage pride and secure a podium finish when they face Argentina in the bronze medal match today. India, champions last in 2016 in Lucknow, suffered a heavy 1–5 defeat to seven-time winners Germany in the semifinals, leaving the young side heartbroken and determined to make amends at home. Argentina, two-time champions in 2005 and 2021, were edged out 1–2 by Spain in a closely contested semifinal and arrive with their own sense of urgency. Known for their physicality and disciplined structure, the South American side is expected to test India across all departments.

India's semifinal performance raised concerns, with the team visibly wilting under pressure. Defensive lapses, mispasses, and soft goals proved costly, while the forwards—who excelled in the pool stages—struggled to convert opportunities. Players such as Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Gurjot Singh, and Ajeet Yadav created chances but failed to break Germany's resistance.

Head coach P.R. Sreejesh admitted the team fell short tactically, saying the inability to execute plans and conceding easy goals hurt their title hopes. He stressed the need for collective responsibility: solid defending first, followed by efficient attacking play.

Skipper Rohit leads a defence that must dramatically improve to contain Argentina's forwards. The midfield—featuring Rosan Khujur, Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Adrohit Ekka, and Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang—will need greater cohesion to feed the attack effectively.

Penalty corners remain India's persistent weakness. Despite Anmol Ekka scoring from a set piece against Germany, the usually reliable Rohit has struggled to make an impact with drag-flicks this tournament.

'We Don't Want to Change a Lot Now,' Says Suryakumar Yadav

CUTTACK

India captain Suryakumar Yadav has emphasised that the team will resist major changes to its core structure as preparations intensify for the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, to be played at home in two months. Speaking ahead of the limited-overs assignments against South Africa and New Zealand, Suryakumar said the focus is now firmly on sharpening existing plans rather than altering combinations.

He explained that India's World Cup groundwork began immediately after the conclusion of the 2024 edition. "When we give exams in school, not everyone studies in the last four days. We study for a year or two. Our preparation is the same," he said. "We don't want to change a lot now. The only thing we'll work on is the type of cricket we want to play."

India will play 10 T20Is before the World Cup, offering valuable opportunities for refinement. Asked about the ongoing debate regarding Sanju Samson and Jitesh Sharma for a place in the XI, Suryakumar said the team values versatility. "We gave Sanju opportunities and he was ready to bat anywhere. Both are in the scheme of things. It's always good to have players who can open or bat lower. It's a good headache to have."

He also welcomed Hardik Pandya's return to full fitness, highlighting the balance the all-rounder brings. "As you saw in the Asia Cup, when he bowled with the new ball, it opened many options for us. His experience will count a lot."

With tosses proving decisive in the ongoing ODI series, Suryakumar joked that he might follow K.L. Rahul's superstition and try using his left hand at the toss, adding a light-hearted note to India's otherwise focused preparations.

Praggnanandhaa Readies for 2026 Candidates, Cites 'Extremely Strong' Field

NEW DELHI

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has secured his place in the 2026 Candidates Tournament, becoming the sole Indian representative in next year's men's event. He earned the berth after a stellar performance at the London Chess Classic, finishing joint-first with Velimir Ivic and Ameet K Ghasi before settling in third after tie-breaks. The victory also saw him top the FIDE Circuit 2025 with 115.17 points, comfortably ahead of Dutch GM Anish Giri, who has already qualified for the Candidates.

Praggnanandhaa acknowledged the challenging nature of the tournament. "Any Candidates will be a tough tournament. If someone is there, that means they've shown what it takes. It will be difficult for everyone," he said. He described the upcoming line-up as "extremely strong," noting that the rating levels are similar to last year, with virtually no player who could be considered an easy target.

The 20-year-old GM also reflected on preparation constraints. "Assuming I make it, there will be a short time to prepare. Not long time to prepare like camps or something. I'll just try to rest and see how to prepare," he explained.

Praggnanandhaa enters the Candidates on the back of a highly successful year. He won the Tata Chess Masters, defeating fellow Indian GM D Gukesh in a tie-breaker, clinched the Grand Chess Tour Superbet Chess Classic Romania, and took the 2nd UzChess Cup 2025 in blitz tiebreaks. Despite a disappointing campaign at this year's World Cup, he remains India's only male representative in the Candidates.

Meanwhile, Indian women's grandmasters Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, and R Vaishali will compete at the Women's Candidates, continuing India's strong presence in international chess. Praggnanandhaa now shifts focus to rest and strategic preparation, aware that the 2026 Candidates will test even the world's elite players.

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